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**REPORT**  
ON THE  
**FAMINE RELIEF OPERATIONS,**  
IN  
HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM'S DOMINIONS  
DURING  
1309 FASLI. (1899-1900.)

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**VOL. I-REPORT.**

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DURING

**1309 FASLI. (1899-1900.)**

BY

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**FAMINE COMMISSIONER.**

*HYDERABAD. DECCAN*

**VOL. I REPORT.**



**Madras:**

**PRINTED BY H. PLUMBE, SUPERINTENDENT, LAWRENCE ASYLUM PRESS**

**March 1901.**



# HYDERABAD FAMINE REPORT, 1900.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY.

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The famine of 1900 was caused by a failure of the south-west monsoon in 1899, from which rain is expected at short intervals from June to the end of September. There is also usually some late rain brought up by the north-east monsoon in the months of October and November, but this was also seriously deficient. The average annual rainfall is 34 inches. In the season of 1899, the average was only 15.49 inches. The deficiency extended more or less to every district. In seventy-one talukas, out of a total of 112, the rainfall was less than half the average, while in the most favourable instance it was 18 per cent below the average.

The rain in the latter part of the season averaged 37 cents as against 1.79 inches in the preceding year. In some districts, light as this rain was, it averted famine, and finally the famine area was found to be the whole of the four districts of Aurangabad, Bir, Parbhani, Naldurg and parts of the Nander, Gulbargah, and Bidar districts, comprising in all an area of 23,007 square miles, with a population of 3,573,651.

The slightly affected area comprised all the remaining districts, except Indur, and extended to an area of 51,541 square miles, with a population of 6,512,379.

The early *kharif* crops in the famine area were about 25 per cent, and the *rabi*, or late crop, about 12½ per cent of a normal harvest. Over a very large area the *rabi* crop was *nil*.

The year preceding the famine was a favourable one. Owing to the scarcity of 1897, and the depletion of grain stocks by export to famine stricken parts of British India, the ryots cultivated an unusually large area with jawari in the season of 1898, and the rainfall being plentiful, the out-turn of grain and fodder was abundant. The stock of fodder was so large, that it could not be, or at any rate was not, disposed of within the year, and became available for the famine year of 1900. Many persons must have made a handsome profit on their sales of fodder, and the plentiful supply of the preceding year helped many a cultivator to keep his plough cattle alive during the famine.

The loss of cattle has been very heavy, but it would have been greater if there had not been the surplus of the preceding year to draw upon. The returns of cattle mortality—not very reliable—shew a total loss of 721,542 head of all kinds, being 1.4 per cent of the whole stock. The loss of agricultural cattle, *i.e.*, cattle used in the plough and for drawing water, has been 423,520, or 2.4 per

cent of the stock of agricultural cattle. Many cattle had been admitted to the forests under the usual fee system before the failure of the monsoon declared itself; in the latter months admission to the forests was free, and the ryots were permitted to cut and take away grass by head and cart loads free of charge. The forests near the railway were largely indented on for grass for the City of Hyderabad, and the adjoining British cantonments. The more distant forests were filled with cattle taken to them for grazing purposes, but, while grass was sufficient, the water-supply failed, and thirst rather than starvation was the cause of the death of thousands of cattle.

Remissions of land revenue were given, mostly in the Telingana districts, to the extent of H.S. Rs. 68,52,535, leaving the net demand at H.S. Rs. 1,72,39,488. There are always remissions in the Telingana districts as the system of land revenue is to take no revenue when there is no crop, but, compared with the preceding year, the remissions increased by H.S. Rs. 40,61,434, the whole of which may be set down as the abnormal loss caused by the failure of the monsoon of 1899. In the famine districts, where there are ordinarily no remissions, the revenue being payable crop or no crop, the revenue was suspended to the extent of H.S. Rs. 20,03,678, being 20·5 per cent of the total demand in these districts. It may be calculated that the whole of this sum, or at least most of it, will be recovered hereafter. The actual collections of land revenue, compared with the preceding year, show a loss of H.S. Rs. 64,32,858, of which about twenty lakhs are recoverable. These figures do not include His Highness' Crown lands, known as *sarf-i-lhas*, the revenue of which is collected by Government officials.

In the months of August to October, when prospects appeared worse in parts of British India than in Hyderabad, the flow of grain was outwards, the exports being 1,249,000 maunds as against imports of 342,000 maunds. But in November, when our own prospects assumed a serious aspect, prices rose rapidly, and the tide of the grain trade turned, the imports exceeding the exports. During the whole period the imports of grain amounted to five million maunds, while the exports were a little over two-and-a-half million maunds the balance in favour of imports being 2,340,000 maunds. The import of jawari and rice from the east coast of India to Aurangabad was a noticeable feature of the trade during the famine. The grain was brought mostly from the Godavari North station on the East Coast Railway, *via* Bezwada, Secunderabad Wadi, Dhond and Manmar. The total distance is 865 miles, but notwithstanding this long haulage, the grain was delivered at Aurangabad at very much cheaper rates than it could be procured in local villages distant from the railway. In two talukas (sub-divisions) the price of jawari ruled as high as 4 seers per H.S. rupee; in twelve talukas it ranged from 4 to 5 seers; in 54 talukas from 6 to 7 seers, while in Aurangabad and other places on the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway, where large relief works were

established, it ranged, thanks to the importers, at about 8 seers per H.S. rupee. The saving in famine expenditure, owing to the opening of the northern section of the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway has been not less than ten lakhs of rupees.

In the early part of the season, but more or less until well on in the hot weather, complaints were received of migration into adjoining British districts. The returns on this head are not reliable. Such as they are, they show that altogether 21,728 persons emigrated, while the immigrants numbered 9,207. It is impossible to rely on emigration figures, because many persons left their villages in search of work, or were driven away by the failure of the village water-supply, and it cannot be said where they finally drifted to. Over 13,000 persons were brought back from British territory and maintained in our camps and poorhouses.

Relief measures were started in the early part of November on a small scale, and more extensively from December 1899. By the 6th October 1900, all relief camps were closed, except a small camp in the Naldurg district, which is being continued. The poorhouses were mostly closed by November 1900. The highest attendance on relief on any one day was 521,849 persons on the 22nd June, of whom 413,123 were in relief camps, and 103,726 in poorhouses. Counting the days on which each individual was relieved, the total attendance amounts to 84,160,816, distributed as follows—

Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,819,849
Dependants	...	...	..	...	...	...	24,303,207
Gratuitously relieved in poorhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,037,760
Total							<u>84,160,816</u>

The proportion of workers to dependants was 64·9 to 35·1.

The number of persons provided for in poorhouses was 17·8 per cent of the total on relief.

The total number gratuitously relieved, either as dependants in relief camps, or as inmates of the poorhouses, was a little over 39½ millions, representing 46·4 per cent of the total number relieved.

Of the total number who received relief from Government, 53·6 per cent worked more or less for their livelihood, while 46·4 were supported gratuitously. Of the total number on relief, 62½ per cent were adults, and 37½ per cent were children.

In the Naldurg district the percentage of population on relief ran as high as 20·51 per cent, while in the Aurangabad district it was 16·67 per cent. The average percentage of population on relief in the whole famine area was 14·48 per

cent. In no previous famine has relief been given to anything approaching this extent.

The total cost of the famine under all heads has been H.S. Rs. 78,90,911 or British Rs. 63,12,729, which represents British Rs. 75 per 1,000 per day.

According to returns submitted by District Engineers, the payments to workers equal British Rs. 72-9 per 1,000, and to dependants British Rs. 43-7 per 1,000 per day.

The cost of maintenance of poorhouses is British Rs. 64-15 per 1,000 per day.

*Takavi* advances for the purchase of cattle and seed, and for sinking wells have been given to the extent of H.S. Rs. 12,28,616 (Br. Rs. 9,82,893). This sum is not included in famine expenditure, as it is recoverable in instalments with interest at the rate of six per cent per annum.

Charitable funds have been distributed to the extent of British Rs. 2,22,896. Of this sum, British Rs. 1,76,709 have been received from the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, and the balance has been subscribed locally.

The mode of giving famine relief and the results achieved will be found detailed in the body of this report.

The distress is not yet altogether over. In parts of the western districts the crops have again failed, and relief will have to be continued, but these operations are being treated separately. The relief measures of 1900 were closed in November of that year.

# CHAPTER I.

## INTRODUCTORY.

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1. In common with other parts of India, the Hyderabad territory has suffered periodically from famines of a more or less severe nature. In the seventeenth century there were three famines, viz:—in 1629, 1659 and 1685. In the eighteenth century there were again three famines, viz., in 1713, 1747 and 1787. In the nineteenth century there have been twelve periods of scarcity or famine, viz: 1804, 1813, 1819, 1833, 1846, 1854, 1862, 1866, 1871, 1876-77, 1896-97, and 1899-1900. An account of some of these famines has been given in the Famine Report for 1876-77, from which the following, in an abbreviated form, is taken.

Periodicity of famines in  
Hyderabad.

“Four years after the nineteenth century began, intense distress is stated to have been experienced in the Lingsugur, Raichur, Nagar-Karnul (Mahbub Nagar), Aurangabad, Hyderabad, Bir, Bidar and Parbhani districts. The Talukdar of Lingsugur, in his report, states that owing to a season of drought, the *khariif* crop wholly failed, and *ragi* (an inferior description of grain, on which the poorer classes mostly subsist) so entirely perished that from sixty seers per rupee (its usual market value) it went up to eight, and subsequently to two and a half seers per rupee. About 20,000 persons, it is believed, emigrated to more favoured districts, the greater portion of whom, however, returned to their homes with better times. There does not appear to have been much loss of human life, and comparatively few villages were depopulated. No particulars have been left describing what measures, if any, were taken to relieve the distress. The Talukdar of Raichur, while confirming the above account, states that *ragi* sold at about three seers per rupee, and that in the course of this famine Dara Jah, a Jagirdar of that district, distributed some fifty thousand rupees' worth of jawari among the distressed poor. Every applicant received three-quarters of a pound of jawari per day. Notwithstanding this benevolent act, many thousands are said to have perished.

“The Talukdar of Aurangabad has left it on record that at this period the crops in that district were splendid, and jawari sold at the cheap rate of a *palla* of 240 lbs. for a rupee, but that Holkar made a raid, devastating the country far and wide. The consequence was a sudden rise of prices. Grain and ghee could not be obtained at more than half a seer per rupee. This seems to have been the highest rate which food ever reached, and was due to the combination of want of rain and man's devastation. As might be anticipated, many thousands died of starvation. Great distress also prevailed in the Hyderabad district, although there comparatively few perished, and there was not much emigration. The Talukdar of Bir writes in the same strain. There was much distress in that district, and jawari sold at two seers per rupee. Some people are said to have fed upon human flesh. The want of drinking-water seems to have been added to the scarcity of food, and many thousands are supposed to have perished. From Bidar the accounts are nearly the same. The Killedar, or officer in charge of the fort, sold the Government

grain stocked there at six seers per rupee, as a measure of relief, and distributed half a seer of grain per head per diem among the poor and distressed. There were in that part comparatively few deaths from starvation, and very little emigration. The Talukdar of Parbhani reports that, owing to a severe season of drought, the ground was entirely parched, and not a blade of grass was to be seen in the open country. Thousands perished from starvation, and much live stock was lost. Subhan Khan, a Jagirdar, tried to relieve the poor by collecting all the grain he could, and compelling the *banias* to sell it at a price fixed by himself. He also bought grain on his own account and distributed it freely among the starving poor. Finding this measure inadequate to meet the distress, he ordered jawari gruel to be prepared, and this was doled out daily to the sufferers. Many thousands, it is believed, perished, and upwards of 10,000 emigrated into the Telugana country.

“In 1813 A.D. Shorapur suffered from a pressure of prices, which lasted only a few months. Grain sold at six seers per rupee. Six years later (A.D. 1819) the districts of Gulbargah, Lingsugur, Bir, Shorapur, Indur and Parbhani were devastated by another famine. Owing to the excessive and incessant downpours of rain (says the Talukdar of Gulbargah), agricultural operations were suspended. Jawari, which usually sold at seventy seers per rupee, went up as high as three seers. Ultimately, however, things appear to have righted themselves; vegetation was luxuriant, few lives were lost, and no live stock perished. A charity-house was opened by Government, where the better classes received one seer of jawari and two *dubs* per head per day, while the lower classes received cooked food. There was no actual famine in the Lingsugur district itself, as the rains there seem to have been moderate; but a rise in prices is said to have been caused by a large number of people flocking in from the surrounding famine-stricken districts. Jawari sold at eight seers per rupee, but no deaths and no emigration from starvation appear to have occurred. The Talukdar of Bir states, in his report, that a famine was brought on in his district by a season of drought, and the price of jawari rose to five seers per rupee. In lands irrigated from wells, carrots were grown, which yielded a heavy crop, affording sustenance to many. Hence the famine is remembered as the *gajra kal*, or the “carrot famine.” Very few deaths occurred, and but little emigration. Slight pressure was also felt at Shorapur and Indur, but no details are available. The account sent in by the Talukdar of Parbhani, with respect to his district, is similar to that received from Bir. In the year 1825 distress was caused in the Parbhani and Aurangabad districts from excess of rain. There was, however, no great loss of life, as vegetables grew in abundance, and served to keep men and cattle alive. Grain was sold at nine seers per rupee.

“Eight years later (1833 A.D.) the most severe of the famines of this century occurred, and, like that of 1876-77 in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, would seem to have attracted great attention in England and other parts of Her Majesty's dominions. In volume XIII of the *Monthly Register*, London, several references, covering a number of pages, appear. The area of distress included the districts of Gulbargah, Lingsugur, Nagar-Karnul, Indur, Hyderabad and Shorapur. The Talukdar of Gulbargah describes the famine as having been brought on by the failure of the monsoon, and that wheat and jawari sold at one uniform price. Grain of all kinds sold at seven seers the rupee, the rate having been fixed at the

local authorities. Much distress, however, prevailed, and things eventually came to such a pass that grain could not be procured at any price. Thousands perished, a great many emigrated into more favoured districts, whole villages were depopulated, and the general prostration was very great. The loss of revenue in that district alone amounted to about a lakh of rupees, and many years elapsed before the district recovered from the effect of this shock. In the course of this famine parents are said to have parted with their children for a handful of grain. The Talukdar of Lingsugur states that both grain and water were scarce in his district. The local authorities fixed the price of coarse grain at from twelve to nine seers per rupee. Rice sold at three to seven seers. Sultan Navaz-ul-Mulk, the then Talukdar, had his station at Gangavati, where he opened a poorhouse in which jawari gruel was distributed to such of the poor as applied. About 10,000 were relieved. Thousands of lives were lost however, and some 30,000 people are believed to have emigrated to other countries. At Indur famine was brought on, as at Gulbargah, by a season of drought. Rice sold at six seers per rupee. All export of grain was stopped, and the market prices were ruled by the local authorities. No great loss of life, however, is reported to have occurred, nor much emigration. Much distress is also said to have been felt at Nagar-Karnul, and much consequent loss of life. The Talukdar of Hyderabad gives a similar account respecting that district. Jawari, he adds, sold at from three to four seers per rupee, and people lived on the leaves of trees. Emigration from the district was extensive. The account from Shorapur states that, during this famine, grain sold at four or five seers per rupee. The then Raja of Shorapur, and one Motigir, a sahukar, distributed grain among the poor; but this measure of charity did not do much to mitigate the severity of the distress. To add to this calamity, cholera broke out in an epidemic form, carrying off thousands.

“In A.D. 1846 grain was sold at fifteen seers per rupee, being just double the usual price. Much sickness prevailed amongst the poor in those districts where the distress was most felt, cattle dying in great numbers, and in many places the fowls completely disappeared.

“Eight years had only passed when, in A.D. 1854 another famine, brought on by drought, prevailed in the districts of Gulbargah, Shorapur, Raichur, Nagar-Karnul, Indur and Hyderabad. The Talukdar of Gulbargah states that the visitation was not very severe. The *kharij* crops failed, owing to a very scanty fall of rain; jawari sold at eleven seers per rupee. A slight famine also prevailed in the other districts mentioned. The following account of the two famines which occurred in 1854 and 1855 has been taken from *The Story of my Life*, by Colonel Meadows Taylor.

(1854) “I found distress very great at Naldrug—not so much among the people of my own district, as among starving wretches who came there from all quarters so emaciated, and so shrivelled and weak, that all—men, women and children—were fearful to look upon. Often, during my morning rides, I came upon dead bodies lying by the road-side—creatures who had sunk down to die before they could reach the town, and many crawled in who were too far gone to be recovered. Except at Hingoli I had never seen famine in its worst form before, and this was horrible to witness. I did what I could myself, and every one in Naldrug did the same. My own share amounted to several thousands of rupees, which I could very ill afford; and it was not for a comparatively long time that I could get any answer to my earnest request to be allowed to use what money I needed, to give employment to those able to work. At length, however, I got a favourable reply, and about four thousand miserable wretches were set to work to cut down the scrubby jungle in the fort, and ~~to clean out the old ruined works.~~ Gradually, as rain fell and prospects brightened, the people began

to return to their various homes. What would have become of us at Naldrug if the famine had been universal I can hardly conceive, for the results from which we suffered were fearful enough.

"In August of this year (1855) the distress seemed almost greater than the year before. There had been no rain since June, and the poorer classes, who were accustomed to gain their living by weeding fields and other agricultural work, were now starving, and flocking in crowds to Naldrug. We all did what we could, as we had done the year before, and it was a heavy drain on private individuals."

"Another eight years and, in 1862 A.D., there was a scarcity of grain in Hyderabad, on account of the failure of crops, brought on by an insufficient rainfall. To alleviate the sufferings of the distressed, Government imported grain from the districts and from Calcutta, valued at 11,52,991 rupees, and sold it at a lower rate, than it was purchased for. The grain which had been procured from Calcutta was principally rice: but, owing to defective transit arrangements, it did not reach His Highness the Nizam's Dominions till it was too late to be of great service; further, its quality was not appreciated by the people for whose use it was intended. The food dole was given out on the old native system. No distinction was made between those who were really in need and those who were not. Food was given indiscriminately to all who asked, with the consequence that many received assistance who did not need or deserve it.

"Four years more only had passed when in 1866 A.D. renewed severe distress was again felt in Hyderabad and its neighbourhood. For several months H. H. the Nizam's Government distributed cooked food in the shape of bread and *khichri* (rice and dal mixed). The expense incurred by Government on relief works amounted to Rs. 4,30,289. The salaries of those who drew small pay were increased. Cavalry and foot soldiers received Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 respectively per mensem, in addition to their usual pay.

"Only five years (A.D. 1871, had elapsed when sore distress was again felt, this time in another portion of His Highness' dominions. The districts of Aurangabad, Indur and Nagar-Karnul were this time visited. The suffering was brought on by a season of drought. In the Aurangabad district, remissions to the extent of Rs. 1,23,258 had to be granted to the cultivators. Rs. 20,500 were spent on relief works. Jawari sold at twelve and a quarter seers, and *bajra* at eleven seers per rupee. The distress was not so severe in the Indur and Nagar-Karnul districts, as later on in the season the rains were propitious, and the *rabi* harvest was good."

2. In 1876 there was again a failure of the rains. The famine of this year was the first which may be said to have been combated on modern principles, as accepted and laid down for guidance at that period by the Imperial Government. It is not meant by this that the rules of the Government of India for relief were implicitly followed, but they formed the basis of the relief measures. This is brought out in a letter by Sir Richard Meade, K. C. S. I., who was then Resident, in which it is said:—

Measures adopted during  
famine of 1876-77.

"In all his proceedings on this occasion the able minister, Sir Salar Jung, has acted in accordance with the principles enunciated by the British Government, as those by which its own Officers should be guided in times of scarcity; and though, fortunately, the calamity has only extended to the districts under the administration in a comparatively mild and mitigated form, His Excellency is entitled to think, entitled to every credit for the measures that have been

“actually adopted and for the manner in which His Highness’ Government was prepared to grapple with the difficulties of the case, if they had assumed the serious character that was at one time anticipated.”

Sir Richard Temple, Bart, G. O. S. I., visited Hyderabad at this time as Famine Delegate of the Government of India and recorded his opinion that, “so far as he was able to judge, the arrangements made to meet distress and the diagnosis of the coming trouble were creditable to the prudence and foresight of His Highness’ Government.”

3. The famine of 1876-77 has hitherto been spoken of as the great famine of Hyderabad, more perhaps because of the prominence that was given to the relief measures than to the actual intensity of the distress as compared with that of previous famines, of which there are less detailed records. The districts affected in this year, were, a great portion of Lingsugur, a little less than half of East Raichur, more than one third of Shorapur, one fourth of Gulbargah, and a taluka each (or about one-eighth) of Bir and Naldurg. Nagar-Karnul and Nalgundah were at first thought to be seriously affected, but it was afterwards found that the scarcity in them d’d not amount to famine. In some respects, the whole of His Highness’ dominions suffered in the shape of high prices of food, and the influx of famine stricken people from affected regions. High prices, however, were not an unmixed evil; in districts where the harvest was tolerably good—and this was the case in upwards of half the Mahrattawara country and parts of Telingana—increased returns were received for produce, and cultivators were proportionately enriched.

Population of affected area of  
1876-77

4. The population of the districts, finally recognised as famine districts, was as follows :—

<i>District.</i>						<i>Population.</i>
Raichur	...	...	..	...	..	259,848
Gulbargah	...	..	..	...	.	198,023
Lingsugur	...	..	...	...		251,911
Shorapur	...	..	...	...	...	272,315
Naldurg	...	..	..	.	..	267,180
Koppal	...	.	...			180,928
Total						<u>1,380,235</u>

5. A few district relief works were opened in October 1876, but relief proper commenced on the 9th December 1876. The distress is said to have reached its highest point in the months of April\* and May and the relief measures were finally closed in the beginning of November 1877, although a few hundred rupees were expended subsequently on the poorhouses, of which there were eight in all.

During this period 6,217,721 persons were provided with a day’s work and 1,998,038 with poorhouse relief, or in all the number of persons relieved was

\* The detailed figures show that July was the month with the highest number on relief.

5,215,759. The highest daily attendance was in July when it reached 67,357 persons, viz:—

On relief works	..	...	...	.	42,713
In poorhouses	...	..	.	.	24,642
Total					67,355

Expenditure on famine  
of 1876-7.

6. The total cost of this year's famine, excluding remissions of land revenue, was Rs. 13,75,507 distributed as follows:—

					Rs.
Expenditure on relief works	..	.	.	.	8,38,122
Do. on poorhouses	...	.	.	.	2,44,347
Do. on orphans and wanderers	..	..	.	.	26,996
Do. by District Officers and others	...	...	...	...	61,876
Do. on relief by Public Works Department, independent of Famine Committee	...	..	...	...	1,23,871
Pay of P. W. D. Officers engaged on Famine Relief, but charged to P. W. D.	...	...	...	...	80,295
Total					13,75,507

This expenditure represents a cost of Rs. 166-3 per 1,000 souls relieved, or an average of as. 2-8 per head per day.

7. In the year 1890 there was another failure of the rains in some talukas of the southern districts in which relief had to be given by opening some works on the ordinary contract system, and in remissions of revenue, but the operations were limited and do not require further notice.

8. A more serious famine appeared imminent in 1896, but was fortunately averted in its worst form by some good showers of rain in the third week of November which saved the standing *rabi* crops. At one time the prospects appeared so serious that I was appointed Famine Commissioner and proceeded to make arrangements for meeting a prolonged period of distress. Happily the November rainfall saved the situation. After it, we no longer spoke of famine, but only scarcity. The office of Famine Commissioner was abolished, and I continued to conduct the requisite relief operations in my capacity as Senior Member of the Board of Revenue. Although there was no actual famine in this year, the distress was pretty severe in some parts, being caused quite as much by heavy exports of grain to adjoining famine stricken districts of British India, as by a local failure of the crops. At one time there were serious doubts as to whether there would not be such a depletion of stocks as to cause a grain famine in some of the central districts far from railway communication and difficult of approach by road. This was specially so in the early part of the monsoon of 1897, when the rains held off and there seemed a likelihood of a second year of distress. The rains however were only delayed—they came eventually in sufficient quantity, and the fear of a failure of the grain supply passed away.

9. The scarcity or distress in this period extended over the whole of the Raichur and Lingsugur districts and parts of the Gulbargah, Naldurg and Bir districts, comprising an area of 10,278 square miles with a population of 1,224,907. Later in the season, *i.e.*, from July 1897, the affected area increased to 17,835 square miles, with a population of 2,393,867, but this was only till August, when sufficient rain fell to ensure a harvest.

10. The relief works consisted mainly of the construction of roads by the P. W. D. under the petty contract system. It was only in a few minor instances that relief works were carried out under the departmental system. The first relief work was started on the 19th November 1896 and the last was closed on the 4th November 1897. The highest daily attendance on relief works was 37,126, and in receipt of gratuitous relief 7,637, making in all 44,763.

The total number of persons relieved, counting each day's attendance, and excluding those who attended the cheap grain shops, was—

On relief works	...	...	1,368,706
Gratuitously relieved	...	..	633,479
Total			5,002,185

Expenditure on relief  
measures in 1896-7.

11. The total expenditure debitable to famine was—

			Rs.
By P. W. D.	...	..	7,32,228
By gratuitous relief	..	...	32,234
Pay of Revenue Survey Officers on relief duty.			11,378
Total			7,75,840*

The total cost of the relief amounted to Rs. 155-8 per 1,000 or as. 2-5 per head. In the poorhouses it was Rs. 50-8 per 1,000. As the works were mostly carried out on contract, it is not possible to draw a fair comparison between the operations of this year and those of the famine years that either preceded or followed it.

The above figures do not include relief given in the City of Hyderabad, by means of cheap grain shops. This was a form of relief that was highly appreciated. When grain was at its highest and the poorer classes of the City population were in distress, a large quantity of grain was imported from the East Coast and Burmah, and retailed in the City at cheaper prices than the ruling bazaar rates. Altogether 61,630 maunds, or 2,253 tons, were imported on Government account and sold to 416,029 persons, at a net loss to Government of Rs. 41,286.

12. The year 1898 was the most favourable year we had since 1893, and it was at one time hoped that we were on the eve of a series of good years. But disappointment was in store for us.

\* These figures exclude grain transactions in the City and compensation for dearth of grain to petty officials.

13. The average rainfall in the whole of the dominions in 1899 was only 15.49 inches, or less than half the usual quantity. In the western and southern divisions the latter rains entirely failed. In all parts, the late rain was much below the average, but still it was sufficient in the Raichur and Lingsugur districts—the districts which are generally the first to suffer from a failure of the rains—and in most parts of the Telingana, to avoid a famine.

Deficient rainfall in 1899

14. The famine area extended over the whole of the Aurangabad, Bir, Parbhani and Naldurg districts, two and a half talukas of the Nander district, three talukas of the Bidar district and one taluka of the Gulbargah district. The total area of this part of the country was 23,007 square miles with a population, according to the census of 1891, of 3,573,651.

Area affected in famine of 1900

The scarcity, or slightly affected area, comprised all the other districts except Indur, being an area of 51,541 square miles, with a population of 6,512,379.

15. It is difficult to say whether the distress in the famine of 1899-1900 was more severe than that experienced in some of the preceding famines referred to above. With such scanty records to refer to, it is impossible to make any reliable comparison as to the intensity of the distress, and the necessity for relief in these different periods. The probability may be regarded from two points of view. On the one hand, in the olden days, there were not the same facilities as now exist for the movement of grain, and the surplus stocks of good years, instead of being exported, were stored in granaries and kept available for bad years, so that prices could not have been so universally high as they become in times of scarcity in modern days. On the other hand, in the olden days, the area of land under cultivation was very much less than now, and there was no system of famine relief; projects for relief were purely local and could not have been otherwise than insufficient for saving life. But however this may have been, whether the famine of 1899-1900 was more intense than any that preceded it, or whether it was less so, it is absolutely certain that the demand for relief in 1900 far exceeded anything hitherto experienced by His Highness' Government, and the amount of relief given has been unprecedented in the annals of the State. In the famine of 1877-78 the highest number on relief on any one day was, as has already been shown, 67,355, and the total number relieved during the whole period of that famine was nearly 6½ millions, while in the famine of 1900, the highest daily attendance was 521,849 and the total number relieved during the whole period was over 84 millions.

Comparison of severity of present famine with previous ones

Until the experience of the year 1900, it was generally held that 15 per cent of the population of a famine stricken district was the maximum number that might be expected to apply for relief, but this calculation has been everywhere upset in the late famine, and in His Highness' territories, the percentage relieved rose to 16.67 in the Aurangabad and to 20.51 in the Naldurg district, the average percentage on relief in the four districts adjoining Bombay and Berar being 15.5, and in the whole famine area 14.43 per cent.

## CHAPTER II.

### WEATHER AND CROPS.

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16. The first signs of a failure of the rains began in September 1899, and when October passed without rain the prospects became very serious. By the first of November there were over 90,000 persons on relief in the Bombay Presidency, and famine having been declared in that Presidency, the export of grain from Hyderabad territory towards the famine districts commenced with the usual result that prices bounded up to famine rates. From many places complaints were received of a short supply of grain on account of the dealers holding for higher rates. In the large bazaar of Warangal there was an actual scarcity for two days, which led to a local disturbance.

I personally visited Warangal on the 24th October and found that the sudden rise in prices had of itself checked exports. The price of common jawari had at one time risen to 9 seers per rupee as against a normal price of 24 seers or more, but at the time of my visit it had receded again to 13 seers. Every one was looking anxiously for rain. A few showers would make all the difference between on the one hand a failure of crops, and on the other hand a fair harvest.

17. Writing on the 16th November 1899, I said :—“ As day after day passes  
Forecast in November 1899. “ without rain the prospects of the season are becoming gloomier. There are still hopes of rain, engendered perhaps mainly by the recollection that in 1896, when the state of things was somewhat the same as at present, rain fell on the 19th and 20th November and not only saved the standing jawari crops, but produced an extraordinarily heavy crop wherever there had been timely sowings. If rain falls within the next week or so the standing crops will be saved, and although in some districts there are large areas unsown which can now bear nothing, the situation would be saved to a considerable extent. The present position may be summed up as follows :—In the Lingsugur, Raichur and parts of the Gulbargah districts the crops are fairly good, and I do not at present include them in the affected area, although it may be necessary to do so hereafter if the rain holds off. In the other districts the *kharif* crop has been very poor, the early (*abi*) rice has almost universally failed, the late (*tabi*) rice crop will not be sown at all, except a comparatively small area under wells and channels, and the *rabi*, or spring, crop will in almost all parts be a failure, unless it is saved by rain within the next few weeks.

“ The prospects are therefore very serious, and as we cannot count on more rain, the Government have to prepare themselves for combating a famine, worse probably than any that has occurred within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

“ It will be worse than any previous famine in recent times, because in the first place it follows so soon on the scarcity of 1896-97, from which the people have not yet wholly recovered, and secondly because it is so widespread

“ over the dominions, the only parts at present not seriously affected being, as I have said, the Raichur and Lingsugur districts and parts of the Gulbargah and Warangal districts.

“ In the latter district, the talukas of Madhra and Khamam have had fair rain, and the *rabi* crops there may come to maturity with a few more showers or nights of heavy dew, but for all other parts we must accept the fact that the *rabi* crops are likely to be a failure. I shall be very pleased if circumstances arise which will justify my modifying this estimate, but, in the meantime, it is my duty to place before Government a scheme for affording relief, more or less in all districts, to a large number of people.”

18. It was a fortunate circumstance that although the late rain was much under normal, and in fact there was little or no tank-filling rain, still there was some rain which did good in the southern and eastern districts, and averted a real famine in these parts.

Rainfall statistics.

The following statement gives the figures of the average rainfall in each district for the years 1898, 1899 and 1900.

*Rainfall by districts distinguishing between early and late rains,  
(i.e., before and after Azur, 7th October.)*

DISTRICT	1898 F. (1898)		Total.	1899 F. (1899)		Total.	1900 F. (1900.)		Total.
	Early.	Late.		Early.	Late		Early.	Late	
Aurangabad . ...	22 57	1 58	24 15	12 04	0 06	12 10	18 67	...	18 67
Bir ... ..	28 67	0 50	29 17	15 17	0 06	15 23	20 27	...	20 27
Parbhani ... ..	27 30	0 57	27 96	11 61	0 04	11 65	30 40	0 09	30 49
Nander ... ..	33 10	0 97	34 07	14 45	0 12	14 57	35 69	0 26	35 95
Gulbargah ... ..	29 84	1 73	31 57	13 56	0 53	14 09	25 45	1 07	26 52
Raichur ... ..	24 74	1 20	25 94	13 93	0 73	14 71	21 13	1 66	22 79
Lingsugur . ...	17 59	3 48	21 07	13 10	0 89	13 99	14 72	3 66	18 33
Naldurg ... ..	26 91	0 47	27 38	12 84	0 34	13 18	22 35	0 82	23 17
Bidar .. ...	34 24	0 97	35 21	14 58	0 74	15 32	29 72	0 42	30 14
Indur ... ..	38 53	0 44	38 97	18 95	0 20	19 15	48 65	0 19	48 84
Mahbub Nagar ..	24 14	1 46	25 60	14 29	0 15	14 44	18 65	1 22	19 87
Medak ... ..	32 40	1 27	33 67	15 91	0 25	16 16	35 31	0 38	36 29
Sirpur Tandur ...	40 99	0 47	41 46	22 99	0 53	23 52	40 80	..	49 80
Warangal ... ..	35 39	5 11	40 50	17 09	0 37	17 46	34 47	1 97	36 44
Elgandal .. ...	29 08	4 62	33 70	16 64	0 83	17 47	38 69	3 90	42 59
Nalgundah .. ..	22 10	3 75	25 85	14 70	0 06	14 76	24 35	1 81	26 16
Average of Dominions	29 23	1 79	31 02	15 12	0 37	15 49	29 27	1 13	30 40

It will be observed that in the year preceding the famine, the rainfall was 31.02 inches, of which 1.79 inches was late rain, i.e. it fell after the 7th October. In the famine year the total fall was only 15.49 inches, of which an average of 87 cents was late rain. In the season of the famine year (affecting the season of

1901) the rainfall was 30·40 inches of which 1·13 inches was late rain. ' Unfortunately in the north-western districts the late rains of 1900 have been very deficient and there is again distress in these parts.

The following figures show more fully the deficiency of the rainfall in the different talukas in 1899.

				No. of talukas.
Talukas in which the rainfall was under 8 inches ...				2
Do.	9	„	...	4
Do.	10	„	...	3
Do.	11	„	.	6
Do.	12	„	...	13
Do.	13	„	...	8
Do.	14	„	...	10
Do.	15	„	...	5
Do.	16	„	...	11
Do.	17	„	...	9
Do.	18	„	...	7
Do.	19	„	...	10
Do.	20	„	...	8
Do.	21	„	...	9
Do.	22	„	...	3
Do.	23	„	..	1
Do.	24	„	..	1
Do.	25	„	...	1
Do.	28	„	...	1

The average rainfall in the whole country is 34 inches, so that in 71 talukas it was less than half the average and in the most favourable instance it was 18 per cent below the average.

19. Finally after more detailed reports had been received, and I had myself seen a large part of the country, it was decided that the famine area was 23,007 square miles with a population of 3,573,651 as below.

DISTRICT.				Taluka.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Aurangabad	...	...	...	All	6,176	828,975
Bir	...	...	...	All	4,460	642,722
Parbhani	...	...	...	All	5,087	805,335
Nander	...	..	...	Bhysa	1,345	67,899
				Hadgaon		86,590
				Part of Nander		100,000
Naldurg	...	...	...	All	4,010	649,272
Gulbargah	...	..	...	Mahagaon	400	63,438
Bidar	...	...	...	Rajura	1,529	148,805
				Udgir		121,467
				Nilanga		59,148
				Total ...	23,007	3,573,651

The Aurangabad, Bir and Parbhani districts, with the exception of a part of country near the Godavari river, were suffering from a complete failure

of *rabi* crops. I had lately travelled a very considerable distance in them and had not during the tour seen one single crop except here and there under wells. There was only this much to be said, *viz*:—(1) last year's crop was a large one and there was an ample supply of grain in the country; and (2) in the Kanar taluka of Aurangabad district, as also in some other places, the *kharif* crop was not wholly bad and in some parts even fair. Again in a group of villages north of Hingoli (Parbhani district,) the ryots had reaped a good crop of fodder (*karbi*) which they had been able to sell, or were selling at the prevailing famine rates. In this part of the country, owing to the failure of the latter rains, the jawari plants had failed to throw out heads of grain, but the plants were tall and had yielded a good supply of fodder.

In the Nander district two and a half talukas were bad and the rest of the district was in a fair state. In the southern part of the Nander district (Biloli), the crops were quite fair, and it was reported that people in considerable numbers, even from British districts, had gone there, and to the adjoining Indur district, for harvest operations.

The Naldurg district had suffered very severely. In the part which I had personally seen, on the Latur Yedsi road, there were some crops of jawari, and in this respect the country was not so bare as was the case in Aurangabad, but the out-turn at the best was estimated at only two or three annas in the rupee. The people in the Naldurg district were in a worse condition than those of other districts, which was attributable to repeated failures of crops experienced in late years.

The Bidar district had suffered in the talukas of Udgir, Rajura and Nilanga. The other parts of this district were in fairly good condition, and there was, for the time at least, no necessity for relief works in them.

20. As regards the partially affected districts, I reported as follows:—“The partially affected area partially affected districts may be taken to be more or less the remaining portion of the territory, with the exception of the Indur district, some talukas in the Warangal and Elgandal districts, and a part of Bidar. For the Elgandal district I have received a report from Mr. Roscoe Allen showing that so far the district is right, but as the season wears on there is likely to be some distress among the labouring class. The Survey Officers' reports show that in some talukas of this district the crops have been good. For Sirpur Tandur I have had reports from both Mr. Biscoe, the Conservator of Forests and Mr. Roscoe Allen, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, showing that the crops there have been fairly good, but distress is existent, because of the large number of persons from other districts who have over-run Sirpur.

“The same is the experience in other parts also. Wherever the crops have been fairly good, or there is a chance of obtaining grazing for cattle, a rush is made in that direction, the result of which is likely to be distress after the harvest is over. So that for practical purposes I take it that the whole of the remaining portion of the country is to some extent affected.

“The reports now being received from Gulbarga, Lingsugur, Raichur and Bellary Nagar show that matters are becoming worse in these districts, and

When the harvest is over, as it soon will be, there will be a considerable number of persons in search of work.

"The latest report from Gulbargah shows that the *rabi* crop has largely failed, especially in the Mahagaon taluka, where the people are reported to be in distress. But yet a test work of road metal breaking opened on the Homiabad road has not attracted many people. When the Inspecting Engineer opened this work himself on the 8th February 1900, the number of workers and dependants was only 564 and he reported that most of the people had gone to the neighbouring talukas for harvest operations. Since then the number rose to 1,132 on the 23rd February, but has again fallen to 691 on the 2nd March, but this is so small that it indicates there is not much distress at present, though it will increase as the season goes on.

"From Raichur the latest report is that in the Yadgir taluka relief works are necessary. The other talukas do not require relief works at present, but some ordinary works would be of advantage.

"In the Lingsugur district, the Kushtagi taluka requires works opened. So far there is nothing to show from the reports received up to date that anything more than ordinary works are necessary in this part of the country, although we must be ready at any time to open them as relief works.

"The Mahbub Nagar district reports are becoming rather worse.

"In the Warangal and Elgandal districts some talukas are quite in a good condition, but in the adjoining talukas there has been failure of crops, and after the harvest is over it is expected the people will require to be provided with work."

The slightly affected area was estimated as follows.

DISTRICT.	Taluka.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Nander ... ..	All talukas except Bhysa, Hadgaon and part of Nander. ... ..	1,998	378,040
Gulbargah ... ..	All talukas except Mahagaon. ... ..	3,664	585,821
Lingsugur ... ..	All. ... ..	4,907	620,014
Raichur ... ..	All. ... ..	3,661	512,455
Bidar ... ..	All except Rajura, Udgir and Nilanga. ... ..	2,651	572,564
Mahbub Nagar ... ..	All. ... ..	6,497	674,649
Medak ... ..	All. ... ..	2,017	364,735
Simpur Tandur ... ..	All. ... ..	5,029	231,754
Warangal ... ..	All. ... ..	9,779	853,129
Elgandal ... ..	All. ... ..	7,207	1,091,601
Nalgundah ... ..	All. ... ..	4,131	624,617
Total ..		51,541	6,512,579

21. In the famine districts the early (*kharif*) crop may be estimated to have been an average of four annas in the rupee, or 25 per cent of a normal crop, and the *rabi*, or late crop, which is the largest food-grain crop, was not more than two annas in the rupee, or 12½ per cent of a normal crop.

In the Aurangabad district, the *kharif* was about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  annas as against  $10\frac{1}{2}$  annas in the preceding year. It was worst in the Ambar, Bhokardan, Vijapur and Gangapur talukas. In the Kannar taluka, bordering on Khandesh, the *kharif* crop was better, being estimated at six annas per rupee. The *rabi* crop in the Aurangabad district was less than 2 annas to the rupee. Gangapur and Vijapur talukas had no *rabi* at all, and Bhokardan produced only a half-anna crop. The other talukas yielded an out-turn ranging from 2 to 4 annas in the rupee.

In the Parbhani district, the *kharif* and *rabi* crops were estimated at 2 annas each in the rupee. In the Kalamnuri, Basmat and Jintur talukas there was very little *kharif* and no *rabi*, (except of course under wells, very few in number). In the Parbhani taluka the out-turn was not more than one anna in the rupee, and in the Hingoli taluka there was no *rabi*, the whole of the sowings having withered owing to a failure of the late rains.

In the Bir district, the *kharif* out-turn was  $2\frac{3}{4}$  annas and the *rabi*  $2\frac{1}{4}$  annas per rupee. The worst talukas in this district were Ashti, Bir, Amba, Kej and Georai, where the *rabi* crop was not much more than one anna in the rupee.

In the Naldurg district, the out-turn was from 2 to 4 annas in the rupee. All talukas were about equally affected. In Parendah the out-turn of *kharif* and *rabi* was each less than one anna, Tuljapur and Wasi had an out-turn of under one anna each, while Naldurg and Dharaseo had from 2 to 4 annas.

In the affected talukas of the Nander district, the out-turn of *kharif* was about 4 annas, and of *rabi* under one anna, in the rupee.

In the Gulbargah district, the out-turn of *kharif* was about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  annas and of *rabi*  $5\frac{1}{2}$  annas.

In the Bidar district, the out-turn of *kharif* and *rabi* was each  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas in the rupee. The early rice crop yielded about 6 annas, but the late rice crop nothing.

22. The statement of sowings has not been received from every district, and it is impossible to give it in a complete form here. In the Naldurg district out of 1,241,479 acres, the crops in 862,685 acres were a complete failure; in 236,000 acres, the crops were very poor and in only 119,611 acres were crops reported to have been fairly good. In the Parbhani district, the crops in 72,000 acres withered; in 442,388 acres they were very poor, and in only 44,000 acres were they reported to be in good state. In the Nander district, in 708,701 acres crops withered, in 83,764 acres they were poor and in 407,477 acres they were reported to be good. The Aurangabad and Bir district returns have not been received.

Statistics of sowings.

## CHAPTER III.

### LAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS.

23. It is desirable to explain here the system of the land settlement in His Highness' territory. The country is marked by two great divisions, *viz.*, the Mahratwara and the Telingana. Although these are really ethnological terms distinguishing between the country of the Mahrattas and the Telugus respectively, they have come to signify, in ordinary parlance, the districts having dry cultivation as distinguished from those in which irrigation is carried on.

In the Mahratwara districts (which include the Karnatic districts of the Raichur Doab,) the cultivation is chiefly of dry crops, and the settlements are made on the Bombay system, under which no annual remissions are given for a failure of crops. On the other hand in the Telingana there is extensive rice cultivation under tanks and channels, the assessment on which is taken only if there has been a crop. In cases in which there is no crop owing to a failure of the water-supply or for other reasons, the revenue is remitted for one year, and the cultivator does not lose his right of occupation. The remission for "one year" may be, and is frequently, continued for several years, when there is no water with which to irrigate a crop. It will thus be seen that in a year of bad harvests, remissions of the revenue for wet lands in the Telingana are given as a matter of course under the ordinary rules, and no special orders are necessary in regard to them.

24. In the Mahratwara districts, in which the famine prevailed, no remissions could be given without special orders. I accordingly obtained the Minister's sanction for special remissions under the same conditions as were successfully applied to the Naldurg district in the year 1896. The principle of this system was to treat each case individually, discriminating by local enquiries between the cases of cultivators who were able to pay and those who were unable to pay the land assessment, and forbidding the attachment of property essential for the ryots' use and livelihood.

The orders for remissions were issued in a circular by the Board of Revenue, approved by the Minister, and were to the following effect.

*"Orders regarding the collection of revenue instalments.—*(1) In lands where the crop is totally lost, or where there has been no sowing at all, the collection of revenue may be postponed to the next year, except in the undermentioned cases, namely, (a) when the field is in the possession of, or under mortgage to, some *sahukar*; and (b) when it is found that the holder of the field is well-to-do and can pay the amount of revenue without difficulty.

(2) In lands where the crop is partially lost, the First Talukdars of districts, or their assistants, namely the second and third talukdars, should act according to their discretion. If it is desirable to either collect or postpone the instalment, they should act accordingly, irrespective of the condition of the cultivator, and if the holder of the field is too poor to pay the demand, the collection may also be postponed.

(3) The revenue of garden lands should be collected as usual in two equal instalments, but if the wells had dried up and the cultivators were unable to pay the revenue the Talukdars may, according to their discretion, postpone the collection of a part of the revenue. But it will be necessary to collect the first instalment.

*Distinction between poor and well-to-do cultivators.*—Only the following cultivators may be considered poor, namely those—

- (i) who have only sufficient cattle for agricultural purposes ;
- (ii) who have only grain sufficient for themselves, their families and dependants up to Azur next (October) ;
- (iii) who have only fodder enough to last for their cattle to the end of Amardad next, (June) ; and
- (iv) who have only seed for sowings, for the next season.

The following will be considered well-to-do, namely those—

- (i) who have more than what is shown above as usual requirements of cultivation ; or
- (ii) who may carry on trade besides cultivation ; or
- (iii) who are rich and have gold and silver ornaments. But the ornaments belonging to women, that are considered symbols of married life, as well as special property, called *Stridhan* (woman's property,) which cannot be legally attached for the husband's debts, are exempted.

*Articles exempted from attachment or sale.* In collecting the instalments of revenue, the following things should not be attached, nor should the cultivators be forced to sell them to pay the revenue demand.

- (1) Cattle required for purposes of cultivation ;
- (2) Grain required for the maintenance of the cultivators themselves and their dependants, as well as seed required for the next sowings ; and
- (3) Fodder required for agricultural cattle up to the end of Amardad (June) next.

Tehsildars and *Nazims* of *jamabandi* should fully understand the above instructions and determine when and for whom suspensions of revenue should be granted this year. It is also to be noted that the implements of husbandry, agricultural cattle, grain required by cultivators up to the next season and fodder for cattle should not be attached for the amount due, nor should the cultivators be forced to sell them to pay the revenue demand, as this will only ruin them. Any error in the execution of these orders on the part of the officers concerned will probably lead to severe loss both to Government and ryot, and if any officer looks towards his own interests, both Government and cultivator will be put to undue loss. It is therefore hoped that Subadars and First Talukdars will properly look to the execution of these orders, and will themselves make tours of inspection and issue instructions wherever necessary. Tehsildars should be directed to collect revenue in strict accordance with the provisions and instructions laid down above, and not trespass the limits herein prescribed, and First Talukdars and *jamabandi Nazims* should supervise the proper execution of these orders."

25. The suspensions of land revenue under the foregoing rules in the famine districts amounted to Rs. 20,03,678, or 20 5 per cent of

Statistics of suspensions.

the revenue demand, of which Rs. 18,06,040 referred to Government districts and Rs. 1,97,638 to *sarf-i-khas*. The details by districts are given below.

DISTRICT.	Demand.	AMOUNT SUSPENDED.			Percent- age of suspensions.
		Government revenue.	<i>Sarf-i-khas</i> revenue.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Aurangabad ... ..	21,56,297	5,33,614	...	5,33,614	24.6
Bir { Government 13,62,215	14,75,522	2,30,745	4,476	2,35,221	16.0
{ <i>Sarf-i-khas</i> 1,13,307.					
Parbhani ... ..	16,00,175	1,77,316	...	1,77,316	11.1
Nander ... ..	13,97,562	97,111	...	97,111	7.0
Naldurg { Government 4,71,198	11,71,691	3,05,109	1,93,162	4,98,271	42.5
{ <i>Sarf-i-khas</i> 6,99,898					
Bidar ... ..	8,60,470	3,17,747	...	3,17,747	36.8
Gulbargah ... ..	11,17,435	1,44,398	...	1,44,398	13.4
Total ... ..	97,78,602	18,06,040	1,97,638	20,03,678	20.5

It will be seen from the above that in the Naldurg district 42·5 per cent was held in suspense, while in the Bir district the percentage was 16, and in Parbhani 11·1. In Aurangabad 24·6 per cent was held in suspense, and in Bidar the percentage rose to 36·8 per cent. The districts of Gulbargah and Nander were not totally bad and therefore the suspensions were not expected to be great.

26. With the issue of the Revenue Board's circular, the Famine Commissioner ceased to have any concern with the collection of revenue, for which the Talukdars and Subadars are responsible under the Board of Revenue.

Collection of revenue.

Considering the extensive failure of the crops, the percentage of the remissions is less than I expected it to be, except in the Naldurg and Bidar district where the Talukdars gave full effect to the Government orders. Most of the tehsildars of other districts thought more of collecting the revenue than of giving remissions, for which they cannot altogether be blamed, as frequent reminders were issued for the remittance of revenue. Broadly speaking, the ryots who had credit with the money-lenders, or who had surplus cattle to sell, were made to pay up, while the poor who had no property and no credit were granted time.

A large area of land is held by the old pergannah officers, the Deshmukhs and the Deshpandias, as also by the patels and patwaris of villages, and these being in receipt of allowances from Government were required to pay their assessment, without reference to the failure of the crops.

27. In appendix VII a statement is given showing for each district the assessment of land revenue, the remissions under the ordinary rules and the net demand as compared with the preceding year. An abstract of this statement is given below.

Comparison of land revenue demand.

FASLI YEAR.				Total land revenue.	Remissions for one year under ordinary rules.	Net demand recoverable.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1308	...	...	...	2,41,68,506	27,91,099	2,13,77,407
1309	...	...	...	2,40,92,023	68,52,535	1,72,39,488

The extent to which the crops failed in the Telingana districts can be seen from the fact that remissions under the ordinary rules increased by Rs. 40,61,434 *viz.*, from Rs. 27,91,099 granted in 1308 Fasli, when the season was fairly good, to Rs. 68,52,535 in 1309 Fasli. Even in the best years, there are large remissions granted in the Telingana, the main causes for which are breached tanks, or the area of land under a tank being more than can be cultivated in one year, the tank having probably silted up in the course of years. The uncertainty of the revenue of the Telingana districts is a peculiar feature in the Hyderabad system, and we have always to calculate on remissions ranging from 20 to 25

lakhs. The difference of Rs. 40,61,434, between the remissions of the years 1308 Fasli and 1309 Fasli, may be set down as loss of revenue caused by the failure of the rainfall in 1899.

The total demand of revenue in 1309 Fasli (including arrears of Rs. 11,99,404) was Rs. 1,85,66,913, of which the collections have been Rs. 1,53,72,266, and Rs. 31,95,565 are outstanding. The outstandings for the year 1309 Fasli only, are Rs. 20,92,055, the most of which is likely to be collected hereafter.

Treasury figures of collections. 28. The actual collections of land revenue in the two past years compare as follows—

					Rs.
Land revenue collections in 1308 Fasli	...	.			2,22,86,523
Do. do. 1309 Fasli	...	...			1,53,53,665
					<hr/>
Decrease in 1309 Fasli	...	...			64,32,858
					<hr/>

According to this account, which is taken from the treasury returns, there was a loss in the Government collections of land revenue of Rs. 64,32,858, of which about 20 lakhs may be recovered hereafter. These figures do not include *sarf-i-khas* collections.

CHAPTER IV.

CRIME.

29. The statistics of crime have not been received, and the information cannot be given here. Dakaities and thefts as was to be expected, increased very much. In relief camps, even where we had Bhils as in a part of the Aurangabad district, the people were orderly and well-behaved, and no special police arrangements were necessary.

## CHAPTER V.

### SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS.

Exports and imports by months.

30. Appendix X shows the exports and imports of each kind of grain by months, of which the following is an abstract.

MONTH		Imports from British territory in maunds.	Exports to British territory in maunds.	MONTH.		Imports from British territory in maunds.	Exports to British territory in maunds.
Mehir	1308 (August 1899)	73,977	289,542	Khurdad	1309 (April 1900)	519,333	78,549
Aban	1308 (September „)	98,280	507,891	Tir	„ (May „)	432,834	72,477
Azur	1309 (October „)	169,989	451,836	Amardad	„ (June „)	493,581	85,836
Dai	„ (November „)	286,182	227,508	Shahrewar	„ (July „)	598,911	118,335
Bahman	„ (December „)	377,349	167,100	Mehir	„ (August „)	277,410	113,923
Isfandar	„ (January 1900)	318,369	183,324	Aban	„ (September „)	338,634	70,781
Farwardi	„ (February „)	395,808	175,596				
Ardibehishst	„ (March „)	612,846	170,520		Total ..	4 993,503	2,653,217

No embargo was placed on the export of grain. The trade was free and unrestricted except, of course, for the customary duty of five per cent on exports which is taken at all times. Before the failure of crops was realized, and when prices of grain had risen rapidly on the Bombay side, the flow of the Hyderabad grain trade was outwards. In the quarter ending Azur (3rd November), the exports were 1,249,269 maunds as against imports of 342,246 maunds, leaving the net exports at 907,023 maunds. In November, when prices rose rapidly in Hyderabad, the exports were checked in the natural course of trade, falling from 451,836 in October to 227,508 maunds in November. The imports simultaneously increased and from that period were throughout the year far in advance of the exports.

During the fourteen months ending with the Fash year 1309 (6th October 1900), the total movements in grain were as follows :—

	Maunds.
Total imports ...	4,993,503
Total exports ...	2,653,217
Balance in favour of imports ...	2,340,286

The balance of imports over exports was thus 2,340,286 maunds or about 83,500 tons.

The imports were largest in April when they reached the figure of 612,816 maunds, but they continued high until the beginning of September.

31. The following statement shows the imports of each kind of grain into the different customs divisions, during the fourteen months ending with the Fash year 1309 (6th October 1900).

CUSTOMS DIVISIONS.	IMPORTS.						EXPORTS.					
	Wheat, maunds	Jawar, maunds.	Rice, maunds	Gram, maunds.	Other grains, maunds	Total maunds	Wheat, maunds	Jawar, maunds	Rice, maunds.	gram, maunds	Other grains, maunds	Total maunds
Hyderabad .				...		*1,643,799			1,443	.	50,202	51,645
Secunderabad .				.		*1,185,132	27	5 910	417		13,416	19 770
Gulbargah	13,968	9,195	133,821	6,138	39,672	202,794	273	1,207,299	11,574	4,025	152,892	1,376,063
Warangal ..	2,277	5,595	125,556	3,915	62,115	199,458	3	164 995	432	255	203,892	389,577
Naldurg ...	5,931	212,574	45,231	13,498	28,389	305,613	33 450	170,157	237	7,329	13,650	224,823
Jalna ...	31,230	47,211	111,918	12,111	81,474	283,950	54 728	111 715	51	6,726	10,380	183,600
Lingsugur ...	2,943	34,866	37,302	327	3,117	78,555	20,670	63 435	3,222	2,316	15,018	104,691
Madhura ..	9	8,841	5,784	309	39,600	54,543	3	56 487	603	1,101	13,239	71,793
Rajura ..	1,230	1,857	14,463	708	361	18,319	903	209,184	1,240	3,693	14,678	230,088
Godavari Valley Railway (to Aurangabad, Jalna & Sailu) ...	99,513	196,440	473,964	48,003	202,920	1,020,840	66	495	90	204	312	1,167
Total ..				.		4,993,503	110 213	2,010,337	19,809	25 679	487,679	2,653,217

32. It will be seen from the above that, next to the City of Hyderabad and cantonment of Secunderabad, the largest imports were by the northern section of the Hyderabad Godavari Valley Railway which was opened on the 21st October 1899 from Manmar to Jalna. On the 1st December 1899 traffic was opened up to Sailu, 155 miles from Manmar, and on the 25th April it was extended 26 miles to Parbhani. Traffic on the southern section was opened on the 25th April from Secunderabad to Sivangaon, a distance of 151 miles. Through traffic on the whole line was opened in October 1900, by which time all famine traffic had ceased.

The opening of this railway from Manmar to Sailu, by which it supplied the large markets of Aurangabad, Jalna, and Sailu was a material benefit for the famine administration. If the railway had not been opened there might not have been an actual scarcity of grain, but prices would certainly have been very much higher. Instead of jawari selling at 8 seers per rupee in Aurangabad, it probably would have sold at five seers, so that the traffic on the railway has not only been profitable to Government as the guarantor of the interest on the railway capital, but Government has also largely benefitted by a lower rate of famine wage in a large part of the affected area. The difference between the maximum wages for a digger (class I), calculated on a grain basis of 8 and 5 seers respectively, is one anna three pies per head; but taking the minimum, which was more universally paid, the saving was nine pies per head for adults and six pies for children. At this rate, taking the proportion of children to be 40 per cent, there was a saving of Rs 6,775 per day per 100,000 persons supported within the area.

\* Details of grain are not available.

influenced by the new railway, which represents a monthly saving of Rs 1,93,000, or nearly two lakhs of rupees. It is not I think too much to say that this new railway has saved Government at least ten lakhs of rupees in famine expenditure. The only regret was that through traffic from Secunderabad to Manmar was not established during the famine, as it would have been if there had been less delay over the preliminary arrangements connected with the extension. The great source of our supply was the east coast of India, and Burmah *via* the east coast. The grain was brought by the East Coast railway to Bezwada. From thence it was taken over the Nizam's Railway through Secunderabad to Wadi on the G. I. P. Railway, from thence to Dhond and Manmar where it was transferred to the waggons of the Hyderabad Godavari Valley metre gauge railway. The distance from Godavari North (on the East Coast Railway) to Aurangabad, *via* Secunderabad, Wadi and Dhond, is 865 miles, while the direct route, *via* Secunderabad to Aurangabad now open for traffic, is only 634 miles, being a difference of 231 miles.

But notwithstanding the long distance the grain was brought, it was possible to lay down jawari in Aurangabad at very much cheaper rates, than prevailed locally in places distant from the railway, and the total quantity carried, according to a statement kindly furnished to me by the Auditor of the railway, was as follows.

	Gram and peas.	Jawari.	Husked rice	Wheat.	Other grains.	Total.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
From Manmar to Aurangabad, Jalna, Sailu and Parbhani.	108,660	298,641	441,145	97,262	126,631	1,067,342

The exports during the same period over this route were purely nominal *viz*, only 427 maunds.

When the Secunderabad end of the line was opened for traffic on the 25th April, jawari was largely conveyed to Nander and Indur, the total amount carried being 52,839 maunds. Rice was also imported to the extent of 25,765 maunds.

35. The value of the Hyderabad Godavari Valley Railway as a protection against famine has been very amply proved during the past year. With this line in full working order, as it is now, there never can be a scarcity of grain, so long of course as it is procurable beyond the frontier; but to complete the railway as a protective system, and also to fully develop the traffic, it is essential that the line should be extended by the company to Hingoli, whatever may be decided as regards the further construction of the line through Berar to Khandesh. It is also essential in my opinion that a light railway should be constructed to the town of Bir, and eventually the northern part of the Elgandal district should be connected with the railway.

Protective nature of new  
railway against famine.

34. Jawari is the staple food of the people of the Mahrattwara districts, and it is for it that all quotations are given. Bajra is a cheaper grain, and wherever possible it was used, but ~~none~~ of it was available during the winter and summer months. The new crop

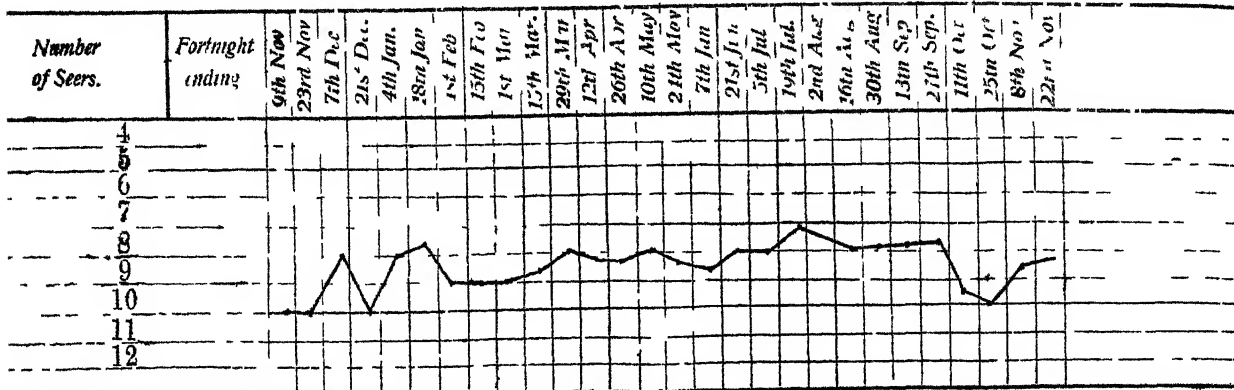
Jawari, the staple grain.



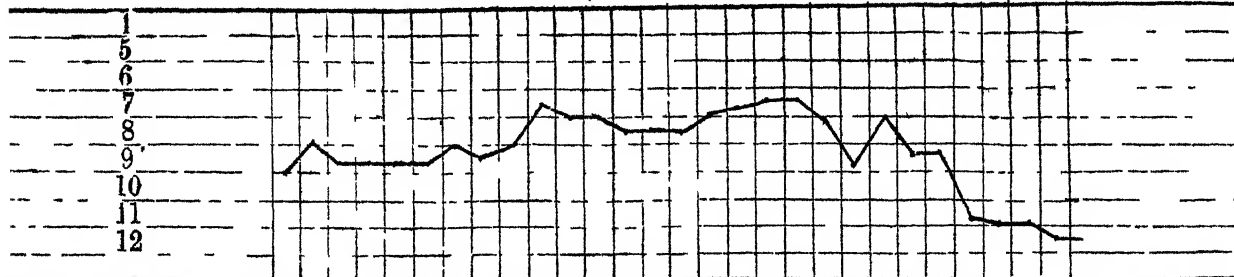


*Diagram Showing Fluctuations of Price of Grain in Famine Districts.*

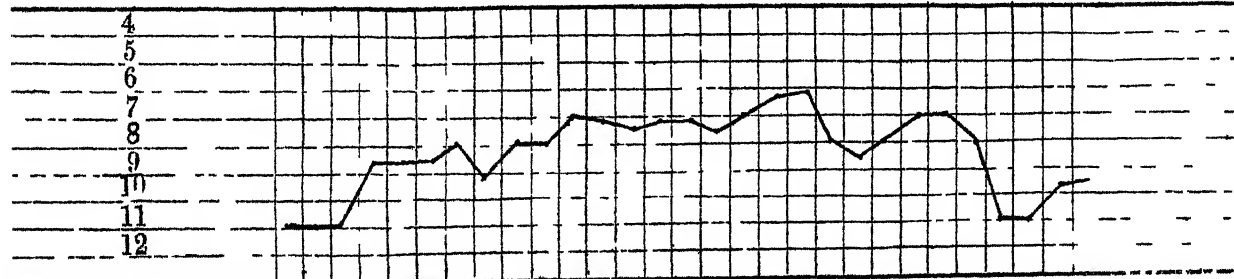
AURANGABAD DISTRICT



BIR DISTRICT.



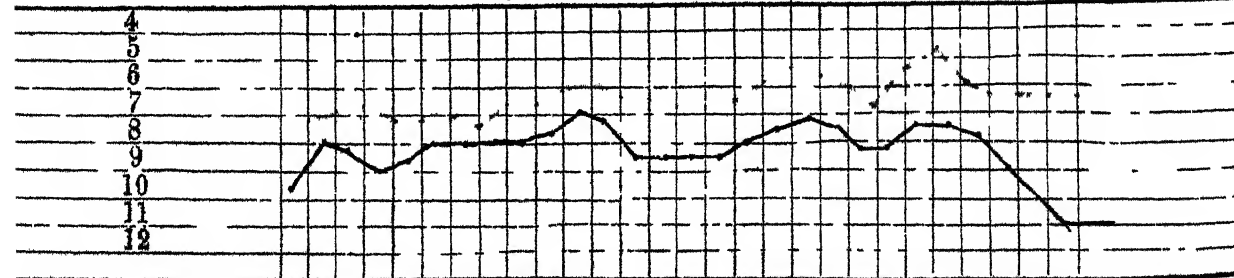
PARBHANI DISTRICT.



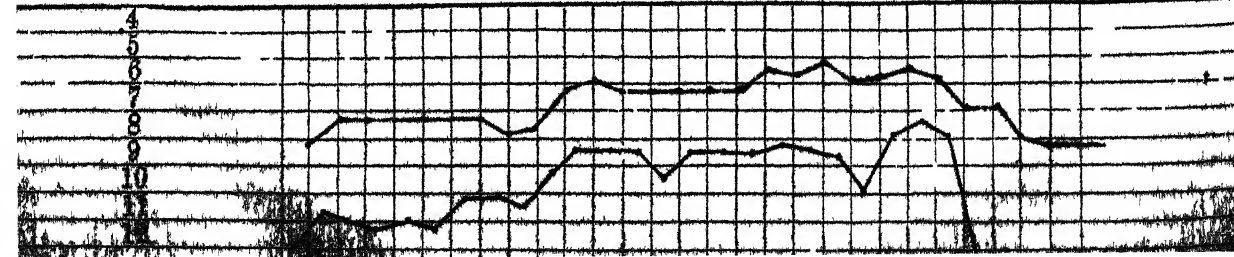
NANDER DISTRICT.



NALDURG DISTRICT.



BIDAR DISTRICT.



The highest price of jawari was 4 seers per rupee in the two talukas of Bir and Hadgaon in the districts of Bir and Nander respectively. In 12 talukas the highest price was from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 seers, and it was at these rates that a great deal of the work had to be done on the Hingoli railway. In 54 talukas the highest price ranged from 6 to 7 seers per rupee, while in 25 talukas it was 8 seers.

In the Aurangabad district the lowest price was 8 seers in three talukas, nine seers in two talukas, and 10 seers in three talukas, and the highest price was from 5 to 7 seers per rupee. In the Bir district the lowest price was from 8 to 9 seers, except in one taluka in which it was 12 seers and the highest price ranged from 4 to 6 seers. In the Parbhani district the lowest prices were from 8 to 11 seers and the highest from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 seers. In the Naldurg district the lowest prices ranged from 8 to 12 seers and the highest from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 seers.

The highest and lowest prices in each district, as compared with normal prices, are shown below.

DISTRICT	Average normal price.	Famine of 1309 F. (1900).		DISTRICT.	Average normal price.	Famine of 1309 F. (1900).	
		Highest price.	Lowest price.			Highest price.	Lowest price.
Aurangabad ...	25	5	10	Bidar ...	21	5	17
Bir .	23	4	$11\frac{1}{2}$	Indur	21	$5\frac{1}{2}$	14
Parbhani ..	24	$4\frac{1}{2}$	11	Mahbub Nagar..	21	$6\frac{1}{2}$	18
Nander ...	24	4	20	Nedak ..	20	$6\frac{3}{4}$	21
Gulbargah ...	24	$6\frac{1}{2}$	12	Sirpur Tandur	39	$8\frac{1}{2}$	15
Raichur ...	24	7	14	Warangal .	20	7	16
Lungsugur ..	27	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	Elgandal ...	19	7	18
Naldurg .	23	$4\frac{1}{2}$	12	Nalgundah	23	7	20
				Total Dominions	24	4	21

The fluctuations in prices of grain in the famine districts are shown in the accompanying diagram.

## CHAPTER VI.

### CATTLE AND FODDER.

38. It was a fortunate circumstance that in the year preceding the famine, the area cultivated with jawari was unusually large, and the out-turn most abundant. In consequence of this many cultivators had stocks of fodder with which they were able to maintain their agricultural cattle, as well as to sell to others at unprecedentedly high prices. But notwithstanding this the failure of the fodder crop in the famine districts was so widespread, except in the part of the country between Hingoli and Berar, that the mortality and loss has been immense. At the beginning of the famine, cattle were sold at mere nominal sums and the supply of meat was so great that it was cheaper than grain. The village *dhers* and *chamburs* fattened on meat.

39. Taking the whole of the districts, the returns received show that out of 5,210,566 head of cattle, 721,542, or 14 per cent, died; 503,522, or 9·7 per cent, were taken away for grazing, of which a very large number probably died, and at the end of the famine 3,644,547 head of cattle were accounted for, showing a decrease since the beginning of the famine of 1,566,019, or 30 per cent.

These figures refer to all districts and cannot, I am afraid, be accepted as very accurate. They are probably most accurate in regard to agricultural cattle, the stock of which has decreased from 1,577,803 to 1,094,283, or by 24·3 per cent.

40. Taking the figures for the famine districts alone, the loss in agricultural cattle has been as follows.

DISTRICT.			Total at commencement of famine.	Died.	Taken for grazing.	Unaccounted for.	Stock at end of famine.
Aurangabad...	...	...	175,305	59,836	40,488	6,211	68,770
Bir	...	...	155,862	24,607	9,222	11,287	107,746
Parbhani	...	...	80,041	11,436	4,128	30,473	34,004
Nander	...	...	58,165	10,949	10,324	807	36,085
Naldurg	...	...	110,535	29,547	7,131	13,338	60,219
Gulbargah	...	...	108,110	8,462	9,103	5,848	84,697
Bidar	...	...	77,629	23,133	14,298	...	40,196
Total ...			765,647	167,972	94,994	70,964	431,717

The reported deaths alone give the percentage of mortality in the famine districts at 22 per cent but comparing the existing stock as now reported with the stock at the beginning of the famine, there has been a loss of 333,930 head of cattle, or nearly 44 per cent. The latter figures are likely to be nearly correct. In the past season a great deal of land was left unsown for want of cattle, and the complaints on this head were so common that so far as can be judged, the loss cannot I think have been less than about 44 per cent. Hand ploughing was resorted to in the Parbhani district by the cultivators themselves. I imported

some specimen hand ploughs from the agricultural department in Guzerat and sent them to the tehsildars, but they do not seem to have been much utilised, probably because the tehsildars did not take the trouble to explain their use to the cultivators.

41. The number of cattle taken for grazing to different parts, mostly within His Highness' territory, was 503,522, of which 162,722 were agricultural.

Cattle taken for grazing.

42. At the beginning of the famine, His Excellency the Minister requested me to arrange if possible for the importation of grass into the Aurangabad district from the forests in the Telingana districts or elsewhere. I made enquiries both as regards the Telingana and the Berar forests, but found the cost so prohibitive and the distribution of the grass, when once deposited in Aurangabad, so difficult, that the measure had to be dropped. Cattle died quite as much from thirst as from want of food, and cattle camps could only have been established on the banks of the Godavari and one or two other rivers, where water was obtainable. But these places were so far distant from the railway, that the expense of carrying grass to them would have been prohibitive. Besides, a measure of this kind required not only large funds but also much supervision, and, all the available funds, as also all the officers and subordinates I could procure, were required, and more than required, for looking after the people, so that there were none to spare for cattle.

Proposal to import grass to famine districts.

43. The *rumnaas*, which are usually sold at auction, were set free for public use and the forests were filled with cattle—but they could not accommodate all and it was inevitable that there should be much mortality among cattle. No returns have been kept of the number of cattle allowed to graze free in the forests. The number for which fees were levied was 4,144 buffaloes, 136,718 bullocks and cows, and 41,080 goats. The Conservator of Forests has furnished me with the following memorandum on the subject.

Free grazing.

“In consequence of the famine of 1309 F, reserve forests were thrown open to free grazing from 1st Farwardi, (2nd February 1900), except the Pakhal reserve, where the right to collect fees had been auctioned, (and there one anna to two annas per head was charged by the contractor,) but long before that date the free removal of grass had been conceded to ryots. Unfortunately forest fires owing to the abnormal drought commenced months earlier than usual, and except in the few fire protected tracts and in the forests adjacent to Yellandú, Mankota, and the Pakhal lake, there was but little grass left after the 1st of February, and indeed in many forests all grass was burned long before that date and the starving cattle had to subsist on the leaves of trees which the herdsmen lopped or pollarded or felled to the great detriment of the forests. The loss of cattle was appalling, but it must be remembered that a very large proportion of these animals were in a starved and dying condition when they entered the forests and was at no time useful to their owners for any purpose. The grass in the fire protected area of Mahadeopur and Kannigherry was extremely plentiful and was the means of saving the lives of many thousands of cattle.

“I wished to have undertaken grass cutting and stacking on a large scale for the benefit of the ryots. The Famine Commissioner was however unable to provide me with funds. In the Amaldari of Sirpur Tandur, where in December I

saw daily immense droves of cattle arriving from Nander and Parbhani districts, this could have been managed with ease through the patels, but the grass was nearly all burned by the end of January. Later on, the Kinwat reserve (Berar), where fire protection was in force and grass abundant, was thrown open to our cattle, which must have been a great relief to cattle owners. I venture to think that during the past unfortunate year, the necessity of fire protection on a large scale has through the death of countless cattle, been sternly and practically impressed on Government, still had it not been for the forests, the mortality would have been immeasurably greater.

"An immense quantity of grass was supplied from the Yellandú and adjacent forests to cattle owners, *karkhanas*, various regiments of His Highness' troops and the Hyderabad Contigent. This gave work and means of subsistence to hundreds of poor people for many months.

"The Assistant Conservator of Warangal remarks in his annual report for 1309 F. (paras. 41 and 42.)—

"41. Large numbers of cattle died during the year for want of fodder and water but I do not see that it is a cause for regret as the people had kept immense numbers of utterly useless cattle and it was mostly these which died as, generally speaking, care was taken by owners to incur even extra expense to keep alive those cattle which were really worth having. I regret to state though that a large number of cattle used for agricultural purposes also died.

"42. Perhaps never before have the people so generally appreciated the great benefit of maintaining the forest reserves as they have during the great want of the last year, and it is not alone my opinion but that of the people and local revenue officers, that had there not been the reserves to fall back on to maintain the cattle, the country round about would have been crippled for years to come for cattle, and both Government and the people suffered. Not only was the grass from the reserve used locally, but it was exported in large quantities and helped materially to support even the military horses, &c."

"The Assistant Conservator of Gulbargah states that cattle entered the reserves in such numbers that nearly all the grass was trampled on and what would have sufficed for a limited number for the whole season was destroyed in a few days, and that the richer ryots and local officials removed what grass there was to the detriment of the poorer ryots. The supply of grass in the Aurangabad division and in most of the Indur, Medak and Elgandal forests was quickly exhausted.

"Although no special famine duties were carried out departmentally, a great many people were employed in timber and bamboo cutting, clearing of demarcation lines &c., without which assistance they would have fared badly.

"*Forest produce as famine foods.*—There was a total or partial failure of certain forest crops such as (*dioscorea*) yams, ebony fruit, *mhowa* flowers, and other usual foods of the indigenous tribes and these poor people were put to sore straits, in consequence. However the '*dendrocalamus*' bamboo, which usually seeds more or less sporadically, seeded last year gregariously during January and February all over the Rajura taluka (Sirpur Tandur Amaldari), and provided an abundant supply of food for the people and the seed was also sold at about 17 seers per rupee.

"Leaves of the 'devadari' tree (*erythroxylon m*) and of the 'bodi' creeper (*riveria h*) were also largely eaten cooked with, or without, small quantities of jawari flour. The roots of various species of aquatic plants were dug up in every tank, bed and eaten; young peepul leaves, seeds of certain grasses, the pith of the jawari stalks, &c., were all eaten by the poorest classes."

## CHAPTER VII.

### MIGRATION.

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44. The statistics of immigration and emigration as received from the districts are shown in Appendices XI and XII. The total number of persons who emigrated is said to have been 21,728, of whom 14,661 proceeded from the Aurangabad district, 4,268 from the Naldurg district, 1,958 from the Bir district and small numbers from other districts.

Migration statistics.

45. The returns have been so inefficiently kept that it is impossible to say how many persons really emigrated and the figures now put forward are utterly unreliable. The local officials cannot however be held entirely responsible for this because whole villages were deserted, either on account of a failure of the water supply or the necessity of people obtaining employment, and when the community was once scattered in this way it was impossible for any one to say how many of them drifted across the frontier. It is well known that large numbers did leave the famine districts, many to obtain grazing for their cattle as well as work for themselves, and others simply to find employment and maintenance for themselves, and families. Large numbers went to the eastern (Telingana) districts of His Highness' territory where there was good grazing, and these do not, of course, appear in the returns of emigration.

Inaccuracy of returns.

46. In the talukas forming the Sirpur Tandur district, and in parts of the Elgandal district where there is good grazing, the distress was really caused, not by any extensive failure of the local crops, but by the large influx of people who over-ran the country in search of grazing and employment, and for whom sufficient ordinary employment was not available.

Immigration into Sirpur  
Tandur and Elgandal

In addition to His Highness' own subjects, Sirpur Tandur received 4,829 refugees from British districts and probably many besides who were not registered. Of those who were registered, 3,711 came from the Central Provinces and 1,653 from Berar. Mr. Roscoe Allen, Chief Engineer of the irrigation department, who visited Sirpur Tandur early in January, wrote that at every stage he found immigrants from the Mahratta country, who were flocking into Sirpur Tandur on account of the famine on their side. At Edlabad itself he found great numbers of immigrants and at the time he wrote there were over a thousand work people seeking employment.

The same was the experience in the Elgandal district, where tank works on the ordinary contract system were started with a view to affording employment to the people.

47. From the frontier districts of the Bombay Presidency and from Berar frequent complaints were received of large influxes of people from Hyderabad territory. There is no doubt that a large number of persons did cross the border and must have been a burden to the British officers administering relief in those districts, who had to meet the rapidly increasing demand made on them by their own people.

Emigration into Bombay  
and Berar.

48. At the same time I think the number of emigrants was exaggerated. At one time I was told that something like 40,000 persons from Hyderabad territory had come on to the relief works in Berar, but according to evidence given before the Famine Commission, further enquiries seem to have reduced this estimate to from 10,000 to 15,000.

Exaggeration of number of emigrants.

49. Of those who went to Berar 3,000 were brought back from Bassim and kept on relief near Hingoli, while from the Buldana district 8,304 persons were brought back to Jalna and employed on the construction of the light railway.

Emigrants brought back from Berar

50. In the latter part of December there was a rush of persons from the Aurangabad district to the relief works in the Buldana district owing, as I pointed out at the time, to a widespread rumour that good wages were obtainable there, while little or no work was exacted.

Analysis of causes of emigration to Buldana.

The truth of this was borne out in a letter written by the Hyderabad correspondent\* of the *Pioneer*, who visited the Buldana works at this time and found that owing to a scarcity of tools large numbers of persons were idle and yet receiving good wages. It was at this time that I personally had experience, both in Aurangabad and Jalna, of persons objecting to work on our conditions which were based on the Famine code. Some of them objected to the small earnings although by harder work they could have earned much more, and hundreds of persons refused work because they objected to break metal. They were willing to dig or carry earth but would not break metal, because the operation hurt their fingers. The fact is, there was no severe pressure on the mass of the people in the month of December, and they were at that time sufficiently independent to refuse work which did not suit them, but glad enough to take wages if they could get them without much trouble.

51. A report was received from the Resident to the effect that 10,000 persons had entered the Sholapur district near Barsi. I happened to pass through Barsi about this time and heard from a local officer that the estimate was a rough one put forward by subordinates, and so it proved to be, for with all the joint efforts of men appointed by the Collector of Sholapur and myself to identify the emigrants, we only succeeded in collecting 2,016 persons who were brought back. Allowing for persons who evaded identification, this number falls far short of the 10,000 originally complained of.

Emigration to Sholapur and Barsi.

52. The boundary line between the Sholapur district and Hyderabad territory (as well also as of the Ahmed Nagar district) is so irregular and the villages of the two jurisdictions are so intermixed, and as a natural consequence the people are so much connected by family ties, that emigration to them may mean just stepping into the next village, or at the most going only a few miles possibly to a relative's house. The Parendah taluka, for instance, with a population of 71,860 is entirely surrounded by British villages belonging to the Sholapur district, and

Analysis of causes of emigration to Bombay districts.

\* The identity of the Hyderabad correspondent of the *Pioneer* is well known locally.

for trade and other purposes it is in communication with the British town of Barsi, 5 miles distant from the Parendah frontier and 19 miles from Parendah itself.

The town of Barsi is a large trade centre possessing several steam cotton presses, and with many merchants who trade largely in the products of His Highness' territory. The great bulk of the Barsi trade is drawn from His Highness' territory, a fact which is corroborated by the keen desire of the Barsi Light Railway Company to extend its line up to Latur in the Naldurg district. Where so many Bhattia merchants assemble in the trade season, as is the case in Barsi, there is always much charity distributed and in times of distress the poor from all the surrounding country will inevitably crowd in, and would do so whether the town were under British or native rule. It was not surprising therefore to find many of His Highness' subjects flocking to Barsi not really because it was a British town but because it is a great centre for native merchants, who fed the poor on a large scale.

Under the circumstances it was practically impossible to check emigration. However all the emigrants who could be identified were taken back to Parendah, where there was a poorhouse in which at one time the attendance reached as high as 1,454,—while in the camps on the Parendah road there was an average attendance of about 9,000, the highest number on any one day being 9,254. On this road there were for a long period 880 persons from the Sholapur district, whom I accepted as a set off against those of His Highness' subjects in British camps.

In the Ahmed Nagar district the frontier is equally irregular and there was the same difficulty in controlling emigration. This district is bounded on its east side by the Bir and Aurangabad districts of His Highness' territory. The Bir district was the one in which I found most difficulty in starting relief works on account chiefly of a difficulty in obtaining officers and tools, and no doubt at the outset a large number of persons did go over to the Ahmed Nagar district.

53. The Collector of Ahmed Nagar, with whom I was in correspondence, frequently brought to my notice cases in which there was an influx of refugees. He circulated an order in his district that all subjects of His Highness should be sent to the nearest work in the Hyderabad territory, except those who were in a weakly condition, who should be relieved in British territory until they were in a fit state to be sent away. In cases in which the locality of a relief work was not known, the people were to be sent to the nearest village belonging to Hyderabad.

On my part I issued a corresponding order, and as works were opened the emigration ceased.

The difficulty of giving full effect to these orders is brought out in a letter which the Collector of Ahmed Nagar addressed to me on the 7th February in which he wrote as follows:—

In acknowledging with thanks receipt of your No. 1331, dated 27th January 1900, I have the honour to state that there are still numerous immigrants into this territory from His Highness the Nizam's in search of relief. It is not possible for me to identify where they come from. As soon as I found immigration taking place, I issued distinct orders. But the only result of this is that immigrants do not now give us the place whence they come or the name of any Moglai village but the name of any British village that occurs to them. Consequently they escape being sent back; and I have neither the men nor the time nor the means to institute enquiries as to the true residence of each of the many thousands that I have on famine relief works.

2. Since the immigrants conceal the fact that they are immigrants I could not say positively that they are immigrants if I had not taken steps to make certain. I posted a man at Karli Takli at the point

where the Nagar Pattan road leaves British and enters Nizam's territory. In 6 days he counted 120 persons *all emaciated* entering the former from the latter. Now considering that this count took place on one road only, and by one man only so that it was not absolutely continuous, and seeing that there are numberless roads and tracks leading across the frontier, I should deem it an extremely moderate estimate to say that residents of His Highness' Dominions, all emaciated, have been coming on to my hands at the rate of 50 a day and are still coming.

3. You mention that you have opened a famine relief work on the Aurangabad Toka road and that for 2 months it has attracted no large number of workers. As regards the system adopted on your works, and what you regard as a large number of persons, I have no information. But I am able to say this that the number of destitute and emaciated persons on the roads and on the relief works on my side is visibly less in the Nevasa taluka (which is opposite the famine relief work which you have opened on your side) than in Kopargaon to the north and in Sheogaon and Jamkher to the south of Nevasa. In Sheogaon it is very bad indeed. People are dying of sheer starvation, at the rate of about 6 a day in the poorhouse and on the works in that taluka. It would be a very great relief to me to hear of your opening famine relief works somewhere near Pattan and also at two or three places south of that near the frontier so as to stop the flow of famine-stricken people and also one to the north of the Aurangabad Toka road opposite my Kopargaon taluka.

It will be noted from this letter that the result of opening a work on the Toka road in the Aurangabad district was to check the emigration.

As regards Sheogaon, to which reference is made, a work was opened on the Pattan road on the 16th March 1900 which provided for the people in that part, but I find also in my report of the 6th March that I referred to this matter as follows :—

"No restriction is placed on the number of persons to be admitted to poorhouses, except that they must come under the classes specified as deserving of gratuitous relief. Some officers wished to restrict the amount of money to be expended each day, but this is distinctly forbidden and tehsildars were held responsible for seeing that no one deserving of relief is refused it. Notwithstanding this I find that the numbers in our poorhouses are very much less than one would expect. In Pattan, for instance, there are 155 persons receiving gratuitous relief, while in the poorhouse on the British border (Sheogaon) the number is 2,000, and the Collector complains of our people having come over. This is a case in which the Talukdar has been called on to make enquiries, but it is only one of several.

"It seems to me that until some tehsildar or other officer is summarily dismissed for neglect of duty of this kind, for which there can be no excuse, (such as tools not available or overseer not arrived) there is little hope of having the orders for relief properly carried out."

54. Besides the apathy shown by some local officers, there was a most unfortunate breakdown in the Dhanura camp on the Ashti Ahmed Nagar road, for want of funds, which also affected the emigration to the Ahmed Nagar district. The attendance in this camp had risen to 7,475, but then the funds ran short and the people were obliged to leave, some of them not having been paid.

In the report for the week ending 29th April, I referred to this as follows :—

"The numbers on relief works have risen during the week from 369,455 to 377,189, being an increase of 7,734 or about two per cent as against an increase of eight per cent in the preceding week.

"The increase would have been larger, but for two causes, namely: (1) cholera was existent in several camps in a severe form which caused the people to leave the works, and (2) the difficulty regarding money referred to in last week's report continued. Very distressing reports were received from several quarters showing that the people were leaving the camps in a starving condition. In the camp at Dhanura on the Ashti Ahmed Nagar road in the Bir district, there were no funds from which to make payments and the attendance which at its highest had been 7,475 fell to 5,126 as now reported and on a later date (27th April) it has been shown as low as 766. Practically this camp has been broken up simply for want of money to carry it on with. Funds having since been received, I have requested the Assistant Engineer in charge to take special measures to bring the people together again, and hope this may be done but I much fear that complaints may be received of people having flocked into the Ahmed Nagar district."

55. It is impossible to deal adequately with the question of emigration which has been given prominence to by British officials without referring to the difficulties I had to encounter at one period in carrying on works for want of funds. When the budget was prepared in September 1899, at a time when the *rabi* crop was not sown, and the usual late rain might fairly be expected, a provision of sixteen lakhs was made for relief.

Subsequently when relief works were started I received with the greatest promptitude every grant that was asked for, and in submitting a forecast on the 6th March, I said—

“ If the famine relief operations fail to be fully effective, it cannot be attributed to any want of liberality, or forethought on the part of Government, because the powers given to me are so extensive and my requisitions are all, without any exceptions, so promptly sanctioned, that I can safely say that there is really nothing left undone by Government which could be done. The weakness in the chain lies in the executive—what I require is a much stronger inspecting staff.”

56. By this time the vast extent of the distress had become apparent, and calculating on the necessity of relieving 15 per cent of the population, I had on the 1st March submitted an estimate for Rs. 68,00,000, of which Rs. 5,47,000 were to be expended in the *sarf-i-khas* talukas of the Naldurg district. Up to the end of February I had received Rs. 8,80,000, and so far as funds were concerned all had gone well. I never contemplated that there would be a long delay in sanctioning further requisitions for funds. The only difficulty at that time was to find a sufficient number of officers and subordinates and to procure tools, of which large quantities were required. But for the month of March, I received only 4 lakhs, against an estimate of Rs. 9,68,000. After the 5th March, when these 4 lakhs were sanctioned, I received Rs. 2,70,000 on the 19th March,—a quite insufficient sum, but given because it was the balance of the budget provision of 16 lakhs—and not until the end of April, did I receive a further grant of Rs. 7,70,000. This latter grant relieved the pressure,—although it took some time to recover from the effects of the disorganisation caused by the breakdown in payments.

57. By drawing on local funds, in some cases exceeding the credit given to me, and largely by dint of purchasing grain on credit from *sahukars*, who would certainly not have given it if they had not had faith in my seeing that they were eventually paid, the Talukdars and myself managed to tide over the period when funds were not available. Had the camps in the Ashti taluka been more accessible to me, or even had there been better communication by post, I think I could have staved off the disaster there also; but it took nearly a fortnight to get a reply by post from Ashti *via* Bir, and under such circumstances it was impossible for me to personally control the events.

58. From the end of April onwards there was no delay in receiving grants of money from Government and I shall always feel most grateful to Nawab Imad Jung Bahadur, Financial Secretary, for the absolutely prompt manner in which from this date he dealt with all my references on famine matters.

59. It may be judged from the foregoing how difficult it was for me to organise relief at the beginning in the frontier districts, to keep pace with the corresponding arrangements on the British side. Not only had I the greatest difficulty in procuring men and tools, but I was also short of money. As regards tools, the Sholapur district commenced the relief works with a stock of some 80,000 tools, while all the tools I could raise were 5,539 for five districts, and the demand for tools from other parts of India was so great, that it was only gradually sufficient supplies could be obtained.

Insufficiency of tools and establishment at commencement.

60. The evidence adduced regarding emigration will I hope effectually dispose of the criticism which has not unfrequently been heard in Hyderabad to the effect that the measures introduced by me were on too liberal a scale, and that many persons not entitled to relief were admitted to the relief works. That the majority of the people on the works were able-bodied and showed no sign of emaciation is an undisputed fact, but it cannot be maintained by any one acquainted with the districts that these people could have found employment elsewhere. There was no employment for them except on the relief works, and if they had not been so employed they would very soon have fallen into a state of emaciation. This is what took place where the works were insufficient. The Sanitary Commissioner of Berar in reporting on the Bassim district said—

Disclaimer regarding measures being too liberal.

“An influx of a large number of people in a very poor and emaciated condition has taken place into these districts from the Moglai. I have seen thousands and thousands of such cases, and calculate that fully 40 per cent of such people have come into our villages, and on our works along our frontier. I am also of opinion that the death rates of those two districts have been raised fully 40 per cent by the influx of these starvelings. The nearer that one goes to the Moglai frontier, the worse the condition of the people appears to me to be both in villages on relief works, and in poorhouses. Some of the cases I have seen, have been very bad indeed. The further that one is from the Moglai frontier into Berar, the better the condition of the people.”

These remarks combined with the complaints from Sholapur and Ahmed Nagar should for ever dispel the idea that my measures were on too liberal a scale.

NOTE.—Since this chapter has been in print, I have received a report from Moulvi Habibud-din, Inspecting relief officer at Aurangabad, in which he says that it is his firm opinion that there were more British subjects in our camps and poorhouses, than there were His Highness' subjects in British camps, but he gives no figures showing the numbers of British subjects, and I do not at all agree with him.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### RELIEF MEASURES AND EXPENDITURE.

#### **A.**—APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF FAMINE COMMISSIONER, &c.

61. The appointment of Famine Commissioner was created on the 4th October 1899, and his powers were defined in rules which received the sanction of His Excellency the Minister on the 20th December 1899. These powers included the following :—

*Irrigation Branch, P. W. D.*—(1) To order the commencement of any irrigation work, the estimate for which has been already sanctioned.

(2) To sanction the commencement of any irrigation work, the plan and estimate for which has been approved by the Chief Engineer, but not yet sanctioned by Government.

(3) To sanction the commencement of the earthwork of any irrigation project for which plans and estimate have not been prepared, provided the Chief Engineer concurs with him in considering the project a suitable one from a professional point of view.

(4) In cases of contracts under the revenue system for the repair of tanks, to grant in cash such portion of the estimated amount as he may consider desirable, with a view to the work being expeditiously carried out, so as to employ the largest number of people.

*General Branch, P. W. D.*—(5) To order commencement of any work, the plans and estimate for which have been sanctioned by Government.

(6) To sanction collection of metal or moorum on existing roads, for which there are no sanctioned estimates.

(7) To sanction the earthwork, in anticipation of estimates, on—

(1) Hingoli metre gauge branch railway.

(2) Khamgaon-Jalna light railway.

(3) Road from Bir to Jalna, which may ultimately be utilised for a light railway.

(8) To sanction the commencement of any one of the railway feeder roads, included in the scheme generally approved by His Excellency the Minister.

(9) To sanction excavation of tanks or other petty works for village relief, including wells, not exceeding in each case Rs. 10,000.

*General.*—(10) To make temporary appointments up to a maximum in each case of Rs. 200, inclusive of allowance.

(11) To purchase tools, tents, &c.

62. <sup>Improvement of water supply</sup> As early as the 10th November, I drew the attention of all district officers to the necessity of improving the existing sources of water supply, either by cleaning out and deepening existing wells, by constructing temporary wells in the beds of streams or tanks, or by making temporary bunds across small streams, in which there was at that time any running water.

63. <sup>Schemes for relief works.</sup> I also called for schemes for relief works, for which no programme was ready, and pointed out that in the Telingana districts, there are so many tanks in need of repair, that road-making would be probably unnecessary.

64. <sup>Gratuitous relief</sup> As regards gratuitous relief, I said—"It may be necessary to open "poorhouses. Action of this nature should be taken in "accordance with the Bombay Famine Code, which was "supplied to Talukdars in 1896. In any emergent cases tehsildars can give relief "from local funds, and on a report being submitted to me through the Subadar, "I will make arrangements for the provision of funds in the future. Tehsildars "are authorised to support any persons that are starving, reporting at once to the "Talukdar for orders. 'Orphan children should be taken care of and forwarded "as early as possible to the Orphanage at Warangal". These orders were issued before famine was really declared in the district, and were meant as a precautionary measure. Had they been acted on fully by the tehsildars, there would have been fewer complaints in the early part of the season of persons emigrating into the adjoining British districts in search of employment, and there would have been also less suffering among those who remained at home. There is no doubt that at first the tehsildars were too often listless and disregarding of the approaching distress, and many persons, especially in the Naldurg district, and in the neighbourhood of Jalna in the Aurangabad district,—but to some extent in all the districts—were allowed to fall into an emaciated condition, which would not have been the case if my orders of the 10th November had been fully attended to.

65. <sup>System of relief based on Bombay Famine Code.</sup> The system of relief was based generally on the lines of the Bombay Famine Code, as modified by the Famine Commission. The instructions were conveyed to all officers in circulars, which are reproduced in Appendix I. for easy reference.

66. <sup>Intermediate piece-work system adopted.</sup> The rules for working were embodied in my Circular No. IV. As the establishments were lamentably under-handed, both in the higher and the lower branches, and I found the greatest difficulty in securing temporary men, I adopted an intermediate piece-work system, with a maximum and a minimum wage. The order provided that the people were to be allowed as far as possible to form themselves into gangs. As a rule, a gang was to consist of about 50 workers, and in the case of digging earth the proportion of carriers to diggers was to be duly considered. When the people had once assorted themselves into gangs, any workers who were left over were to be formed into another gang, or gangs, due regard being had to castes, and proportion of men, women and children. To each gang there was to be one *mukadam* selected by the workers themselves, and through whom all payments were to be made. The *mukadam* was to work himself,

getting his fair proportion of wages, and nothing more by virtue of being *mukadam*. One head cooly on 4 annas a day was placed in charge of two gangs engaged in metal breaking, or of four gangs on earthwork, and a maistry and a *karkun* were sanctioned for every batch of 500 coolies.

The officer in charge of a relief work was enjoined “not to concern himself with the manner of distributing earnings for piece-work among the gang. If there are complaints on this head it may be necessary to redistribute the gang, but experience shows that such disputes are extremely rare, and the principle is to be strictly adhered to, of—

“(1) gangs being self-constituted, and

“(2) gangs being paid in a lump sum for work done, the distribution of the earnings being left to the *mukadam* who is selected by the gang.”

This rule was slightly modified later, as it was found that sometimes persons left the work without getting their wages, when the amount due was taken back from the *mukadam* and credited to Government, but on the whole the system of *mukadams* representing gangs worked well, and with the small establishments available we simply could not have carried on in any other way.

Contracts of all kinds were strictly forbidden, except in the case of quarrying stone for metal, which the relief workers were unable to do for themselves. Authority was given for employing nurses to look after non-working children, but it was not generally resorted to. In some camps, I found this system working well. In others the mothers objected to giving up their children.

The order for payment was that it should be made weekly, the gangs being paid in rotation, so many each day. One day in seven, usually the bazaar day, was observed as a holiday, for which minimum wages were allowed.

Bills for payments to workers and dependants were prepared by the officer in charge of the camp, and sent to the tehsildar to be paid to the people through a cashier of his own. The payments were thus all made by the civil officers, and not by the Public Works officer in charge of the camp.

The responsibilities of the different officers were defined in Circular IV as follows:—

“19. The Public Works officer in charge of the relief camp is responsible for  
P. W. D. officer's responsibility. “all the professional part of the work including measurements, preparation of bills, distribution and custody of tools, &c.

“20. Payments to the workers will be made by the civil officer, on bills  
Bills for payment. “prepared by the Public Works officer, the tehsildar deputing a qualified man for this purpose.

“21. In cases in which there is no special civil relief officer, the tehsildar  
Tehsildar's duty. “should periodically visit the camp, and ascertain that the people are being properly paid.

“22. The higher officers of the Revenue and Public Works departments  
Other Revenue and P. W. D. officers “should also visit the works as frequently as possible, and  
 “satisfy themselves that the orders are being properly  
 “carried out.

“23 The First Talukdar of the district is the chief officer in charge of relief  
First Talukdar “operations in his district, and as such may issue orders  
 “that may be suitable, a report of the same being com-  
 “municated to the Famine Commissioner for information.”

67. The scale of famine wage was at the outset the same as prescribed by the  
Scale of wages Famine Commission, based on a grain equivalent of 20  
 chattaks for a digger, 15 chattaks for a carrier, 12 chattaks  
 minimum wage, &c. The only difference I made, as it was a simpler one for the  
 subordinates to give effect to, was to consider a digger (class I) a man, and a carrier  
 (class II) a woman. It soon became apparent that the scale of wages was too  
 liberal and on the 15th February 1900, I issued an amended table reducing a man's  
 wage from 20 to 18 chattaks, and a woman's from 15 to 14, the other rates being  
 maintained as before.

68. Subsequently on the 20th April, when I found the relief workers taking  
 undue advantage of the minimum wage, I reduced it from  
Ultimate stopping of minimum for workers. an equivalent of 12 to 9½ chattaks. And lastly, on the 6th  
 August, after giving the people inducements to return to  
 their villages, in the shape of road expenses and fifteen days' maintenance, I stopped  
 the minimum wage altogether for such of the residue as were of normal strength.

69. In Circular VIII, dated 15th December 1899, I called on Talukdars for  
 reports regarding the places in which poorhouses should  
Establishment of poorhouses be opened, requesting them to submit the names of persons  
 suitable for serving on the managing committees and making them responsible for  
 the control of expenditure.

70. In Circular XII, dated 3rd January 1900, I promulgated rules for  
 gratuitous relief, taken largely from the Bombay Code, but  
Village relief impracticable. there was this difference that the relief was confined to the  
 head-quarters of each tehsil and certain selected towns. It was felt that the  
 establishments at the disposal of district officers were incapable of supervising an  
 extended system of village relief. The patels of villages were therefore informed  
 that persons in need of relief should be forwarded by them to the nearest poorhouse,  
 and the Talukdars were authorised to pay a subsistence allowance (on the scale of  
 minimum wage) for the time occupied in travelling to the poorhouse. Personally  
 I should have liked to have had the village relief system extended, but under the  
 circumstances it was practically impossible, unless one simply worked with closed  
 eyes regardless of checks on expenditure.

71. My own policy with regard to central poorhouses was far in advance of  
 the views held by many local officers, who were so afraid  
Policy of not limiting expenditure on poorhouses. of incurring responsibility that they wished to limit the  
 monthly grant to each poorhouse, and in some cases at the  
 outset did so, giving from one to three rupees per day, for each institution.

I found so strong an inclination among these officers to adopt this system of fixed grants, that I considered it desirable to refer the matter to His Highness' Government, which I did in the following words—

"Since I issued my circular XII regarding gratuitous relief, the Subadar of Aurangabad has on several occasions verbally asked me to fix a maximum sum as the amount to be expended on the head-quarter and tehsil poorhouses respectively. The Talukdar of Naldurg has also referred to the same subject in his Rubkar No. 186, dated 16th Isfandar 1309 Fasli. According to these officers and some other officer, also, it is considered desirable to fix a limit of expenditure in each case, beyond which the tehsildar, or other officer in charge, will not be able to expend money.

"2. I quite understand the reasons for this suggestion, and recognise that there is a risk in giving tehsildars a free hand in this respect. But after due consideration I have come to the conclusion that it is not possible to adopt this course because it might deprive deserving distressed persons of food which they ought to get. For instance, if I were to say that the expenditure in a tehsil poorhouse is to be limited to Rs. 3 per day, this sum (taking the price of jawari at 7 seers per rupee) would be sufficient for about 50 persons (including children), and if 60 persons required relief the remaining ten would be left to starve. The system which I have adopted in circular XII is—

"(1) to confine poorhouses to tehsil towns, except in special cases which must be specially sanctioned, such as the village of Dhoki in the Naldurg district near the British frontier;

"(2) to specify clearly the classes of persons who are to be given gratuitous relief and the quantity to be given to each;

"(3) to appoint controlling committees; and

"(4) to prescribe weekly returns, copies of which should be furnished to each Talukdar and be submitted by them to the Subadar, and the Famine Commissioner will receive a copy direct every week.

"3. Having regard to the necessity of giving relief to distressed persons, I cannot impose more checks than the above. I cannot run the risk of leaving persons to starve, because a tehsildar cannot be trusted with the expenditure of funds.

"4. The higher officers in the districts and divisions should scrutinise the weekly returns and inspect poorhouses on their tours and if any tehsildar is found expending more money than is necessary, he should be called to account. On the other hand, any tehsildar who manages a poorhouse satisfactorily should have his services acknowledged.

"5. In this way alone is good work likely to be done."

I am glad to say that H. E. the Minister accepted my views fully and without hesitation, and from that day I heard no more of fixed grants.

72. In the month of March 1900, I authorised the opening of poorhouses where necessary in districts in the slightly affected area, and by circular XX, I drew attention to the remissness of patels, in not forwarding persons in search of relief, as follows—

"The provision in circular XII to the effect that patels are to send persons deserving of gratuitous relief to the nearest poorhouse is not being properly attended to. The attention of patels should again be directed to this rule and they should be required to prepare lists of all sick, infirm or starving people who are in need of gratuitous relief, and should take steps to carry out the rules.

"Besides this Talukdars should, whenever they deem it desirable, submit proposals for opening poorhouses in one or more villages other than tehsil towns, so that relief may be procurable within a reasonable distance of every village. In cases of emergency Talukdars may open such poorhouses in anticipation of ~~sanction~~ sanction."

73. Later in the season, when the services of Captain H. K. Dalyell, I.S.C., had been secured as Inspecting relief officer in the Parbhani district, it was found possible to open several village poorhouses on the Berar frontier which were worked most successfully, but this was largely owing to the frequent inspections by Captain Dalyell and the second talukdar, Mr. Ajaz Hussain.

74. On the whole there were from first to last 82 poorhouses opened of which 45 were at the head quarters of tehsils and districts, and 37 in other towns and villages.

#### B.—ATTENDANCE, &c.

75. In Appendix XV a statement is given showing the numbers of persons relieved, (a) as workers (b) as dependants on workers and (c) gratuitously.

The information is shown fortnightly and by districts. The total number relieved, counting the days on which each individual received relief, amounts to 84,160,816.

The following statement is an abstract of these figures by districts.

NUMBERS RELIEVED.														
DISTRICT.	ON WORKS.								IN POORHOUSES.					Grand total.
	Workers.				Dependants.				Total.	Adults.	Children.		Total.	
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Anrangabad	4,507,212	6,325,389	1,159,165	11,991,766	1,012,388	6,428,895	7,441,283	19,433,049	1,887,344	410,220	457,049	2,754,613	22,187,662	
Bir	2,327,386	3,764,573	800,312	6,892,271	584,959	3,247,613	3,832,572	10,724,843	1,821,910	556,461	497,351	2,875,722	13,600,565	
Naldurg	4,518,041	6,106,558	1,241,780	11,866,379	677,414	6,708,269	7,385,683	19,252,062	2,110,513	571,160	728,918	3,410,591	22,662,653	
Parbhani	3,330,460	4,009,874	1,111,466	8,451,800	438,219	2,222,889	2,661,108	11,112,908	1,798,743	419,087	837,080	3,054,910	14,167,818	
Nander	572,714	806,240	49,478	1,423,432	176,868	483,896	660,764	2,089,196	743,082	193,132	151,887	1,088,101	3,177,297	
Gulbargah	617,041	761,888	213,109	1,592,038	250,808	835,304	1,086,112	2,678,150	51,163	18,966	16,405	86,534	2,764,684	
Bidar	1,016,059	1,298,496	265,605	2,580,160	26,733	1,208,634	1,235,367	3,815,527	918,259	195,595	418,791	1,532,645	5,348,172	
Sirpur Tandur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,268	2,218	23,462	43,948	43,948	
Elgandal	7,804	7,666	1,533	17,003	62	236	318	17,321	13,445	8,580	10,378	32,403	49,724	
Warangal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,853	24,083	16,921	77,857	77,857	
Indur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,538	9,016	11,517	45,071	45,071	
Lingsugur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,526	6,815	5,024	35,365	35,365	
Total...	16,896,717	23,080,684	4,842,448	44,819,849	3,167,451	21,135,756	24,303,207	69,123,056	9,447,644	2,415,383	3,174,783	15,037,760	84,160,816	

Although the Famine code does not prescribe for showing sexes separately, I have, as already mentioned, shown in the case of workers men and women separately. That is to say, the men were regarded as diggers (class I), and the women as carriers (class II), and paid according to the scale prescribed for these classes irrespective of the work they were employed on. Amongst the workers, the proportion in each 100 was—

Men ...38

Women ...51

Children ...11

The only district in which the men exceeded the women workers was Elgandal where small works were opened late in the season, but the numbers were altogether so small that they are scarcely worth referring to.

In the case of dependants no distinction has been made between the sexes, the classification being simply, (1) adults and (2) children. The proportion of these two classes in every 100 is—

Adults ...13·1

Children ...86·9

Taking all ages and sexes, the proportion of workers and dependants in every 100 is—

Workers ...64·9

Dependants ...35·1

The number who received gratuitous relief in poorhouses was 15,037,760, of whom nearly  $9\frac{1}{2}$  millions were adults and the rest children. The proportion of adults to children in every 100 in poorhouses was—

Adults ...62·7

Children ...37·3

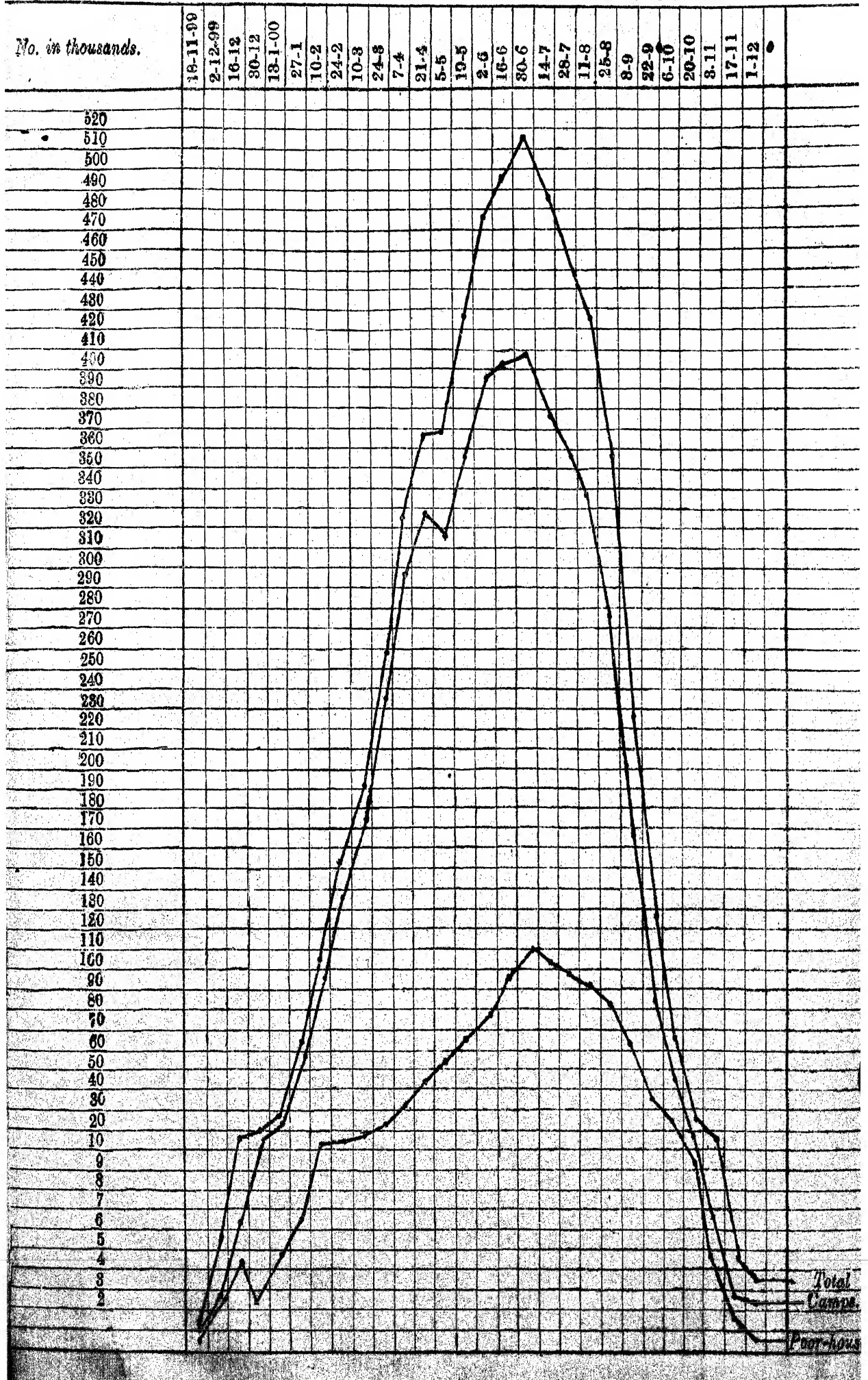
The total number gratuitously relieved, either as dependants in camps or as inmates of poorhouses, was a little over  $39\frac{1}{4}$  millions, representing 46·4 of the total number relieved.

Of the total number who received relief from Government, 53·6 per cent did more or less work for their livelihood, while 46·4 were supported gratuitously. Of the whole number  $62\frac{1}{2}$  per cent were adults and  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent children.

76. The actual numbers on relief taking the last day of each fortnight are shown in the following statement. Rise and fall in attendance are also shown in the accompanying diagram.

Numbers on relief on last day of each fortnight.

# DIAGRAM SHOWING RISE AND FALL IN NUMBERS RELIEVED.





ATTENDANCE ON LAST DAY OF FORTNIGHT ENDING				Relief camps.	Poorhouses.	Total.
18th November 1899	...	...	...	1,079	593	1,672
2nd December „	...	...	...	2,797	2,634	5,431
16th „ „	...	...	...	6,492	4,112	10,604
30th „ „	...	...	...	16,615	2,101	18,716
13th January 1900	...	...	...	23,228	4,051	27,279
27th „ „	...	...	...	59,691	6,345	66,036
10th February „	...	...	...	91,318	11,978	103,296
24th „ „	...	...	...	138,620	12,615	151,235
10th March „	...	...	...	173,928	16,588	190,516
24th „ „	...	...	...	237,035	22,908	259,943
7th April „	...	...	...	294,323	32,660	326,983
21st „ „	...	...	...	324,765	43,010	367,775
5th May „	...	...	...	314,807	53,160	367,967
19th „ „	...	...	...	359,159	66,079	425,238
2nd June „	...	...	...	398,213	77,140	475,353
16th „ „	...	...	...	401,002	93,638	497,640
30th „ „	...	...	...	406,889	109,037	515,926
14th July „	...	...	...	379,328	103,425	482,753
28th „ „	...	...	...	359,840	99,058	458,898
11th August „	...	...	...	334,232	91,111	425,343
25th „ „	...	...	...	276,454	80,672	357,126
8th September „	...	...	...	165,150	61,259	226,409
22nd „ „	...	...	...	83,888	38,110	121,998
6th October „	...	...	...	46,055	23,391	69,446
20th „ „	...	...	...	17,698	9,081	26,779
3rd November „	...	...	...	6,702	4,865	11,567
17th „ „	...	...	...	2,529	1,864	4,393
1st December „	...	...	...	2,466	845	3,311

The highest point, reached in the attendance as shown above, was 515,926 (relief camps 406,889 and poorhouses 109,037), but the highest of all was on an intermediate day, the 22nd June, when it amounted to 521,849 persons.

The highest number at any time in relief camps was 420,681 on the 9th June. The highest number in the poorhouses was 112,054 on the 7th July.

77. The following statement shows the percentage of population on famine relief when the attendance reached its highest point in each district.

Percentage of number relieved on population

DISTRICT.					Population as per census of 1891.	Highest number on relief on any one day.	Percentage on Population
Aurangabad	.	..			828,975	138,689	16.67
Bir	...	...	..		612,722	89,956	14.00
Parbhani	...	..	..	...	805,335	90,222	11.20
Nander	...	...	...	..	251,489	25,253	9.92
Naldurg	...	...	...		619,272	133,167	20.51
Gulbargah*	...	...			226,311	26,471	11.69
Bidar	...	...	.	...	329,420	35,407	10.70
Total					3,736,521	539,115	14.43

It will be seen from the above figures that in the Naldurg district, which mainly borders on the Sholapur district of the Bombay Presidency, the percentage on relief rose to 20.51.

In the Aurangabad district which adjoins parts of the Ahmed Nagar, Nasik and Khandesh districts of the Bombay Presidency and the Buldana district of Berar, the percentage on relief rose to 16.67. In the Bir district the percentage was 14.00 and in Parbhani 11.20.

The average percentage on relief in the whole of the famine area was 14.43.

78. Under ordinary circumstances, the attendance would have fallen off after the first break of the rains, and it might certainly have been anticipated that by the end of June there would have been a decrease in numbers of at least 50 per cent, while by the end of July the relief operations might have been nearly closed. The utmost limit, I estimated for, was up to the 1st August. But the calculations on this head were all thrown out by the fitfulness of the rainfall in the early part of the monsoon of 1900, and by a rise in prices caused by the uncertainty of the local prospects and by bad reports from Guzerat in the Bombay Presidency. In the end of July the price of jawari was  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 seers per British rupee in seven talukas, and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{4}$  seers in fifteen talukas, the rates in other affected parts being 8 to 9 seers. Instead of the attendance falling off in June, it increased and reached its highest level in the last week of that month. All through July and August the attendance remained very high, and it was only in September that a substantial reduction took place. In the progress report for the week ending 8th July, I noticed a fall of

Analysis of causes of why attendance did not fall on break of monsoon

\* In the Gulbargah district, people came on relief from the three talukas of Gulbargah, Mahagaon and Chincholi, and the population of these three talukas is included in the above statement.

12,402 in the numbers in relief camps, but against this there was an increase of 7,806 in the poorhouses. On the general prospects at that time I wrote—

“The rainfall has on the whole been favourable in the famine districts, and the sowing of the *kharif* crops is well advanced, but still the people have not left the relief works in any large numbers, and it is doubtful whether they will do so until the season is more advanced, or more extensive measures are adopted for giving village relief. At present our measures are limited to giving the people, wishing to return, food for the journey and for a few days more”

79. It has been suggested that many persons remained an unnecessarily long time in the camps and even carried on their agricultural operations, while they were borne on the muster rolls of the camps. I have heard of such cases myself and no doubt there was a great deal of fraud in our camps as there has been in other parts of India also. But looking at the question generally, the cultivators who had come on relief returned in numbers to their villages when the sowing time was at hand, but after sowing they could not remain in their villages without support, and returned again to the relief camps. This was the time when I should have liked to have introduced a large system of village relief, but with the establishments at my command, it was impossible to do it, and if attempted would have ended in nothing but a failure. Even the limited measure of village relief which I introduced later was not successful, because the *tehsildars* would not see that the relief was given to the people in the villages, in accordance with the directions contained in the *chakans* that had been granted to them. I might have issued an elaborate scheme of village relief but it would have been a sham, would utterly have broken down for lack of prompt payments of the money in the villages and proper supervision, and would probably have added enormously to the cost of the relief operations without giving any corresponding benefits. My own inclinations are all for village relief and if it had seemed possible, I would have introduced it.

The complaint that persons cultivated their fields while still borne on the relief registers gained credence also from the fact that those belonging to villages near the camps returned to their houses in the evenings. Compulsory residence in the camps was not insisted on. On the contrary people were encouraged to live in the adjoining villages as it saved the cost of hutting, and those of them who had their houses near the camps did what agricultural work they had to do. On such occasions they were marked absent, and received no wages. In this there was room for fraud, as there was in almost every step of the departmental working of the camps. Irregularities were constantly being discovered and rectified. They were perpetrated more in connection with the dependants than the workers, and the practice of paying men who worked in their own fields was not done to any extent. Later in the rains, when prospects had improved and it was desirable to close the camps gradually, I issued an order that no persons who had previously left the works, and no new persons, were to be admitted unless they were in an emaciated or distressed condition. This order was issued on the 6th August 1900. The circumstances of the people were such that it could not have been issued earlier.

By the end of the official Fasli year (6th October) all camps were closed except a small camp near Parendah in the Naldurg district which is being maintained on account of prolonged distress in that neighbourhood.

**C.—GRATUITOUS RELIEF.**

80. It has already been stated that the paucity of establishments made it impossible to adopt any general system of village relief. The policy adopted was therefore to provide for persons entitled to gratuitous relief in poorhouses established in large centres, generally tehsil towns and the head-quarters of districts. In these institutions cooked food was usually given, but a number of persons preferred dry grain, which was given to them in doles daily, and sometimes weekly.

81. There were altogether from first to last 82 poorhouses, in which the highest daily attendance reached 112,054 on the 7th July 1900. Counting each day's attendance, the total number of persons who received food in the poorhouses was 15,037,760. The total expenditure, including establishment, cost of hutting, hospitals, etc., was Rs. 12,18,398, which gives an average of Rs. 81·02 per 1000 per day. This includes Rs. 39,418 raised by subscriptions.

82. Admission to the poorhouses was by ticket and daily attendance rolls were kept. The vast crowds which flocked to the poorhouses at Aurangabad and Jalna caused some confusion at first, but the arrangements were soon organised, and the general management of these and of most of the other similar institutions was creditable to the officers in charge. When the emaciated recovered their strength and were declared fit for work, they were drafted to the nearest camp and enrolled as workers. This measure was a constant source of trouble, in at least Jalna and Aurangabad, which were more specially under my immediate notice. People who were quite fit to do a daily task would not work, and over and over again returned to the poorhouse and begged for relief. It was extremely difficult to deal with such cases. If assistance was refused for a few days, the people gradually fell off in condition and had to be admitted. At Aurangabad we opened a special section of metal breaking on the Ajanta road, on which the healthy inmates of the poorhouse were employed. Their remuneration was the cooked ration of the poorhouse. The work they did was very little, but at any rate it kept them employed to a certain extent and prevented their begging in the city.

Each relief camp was also practically a poorhouse, as, among the dependants, there were some who should have been in poorhouses, but they were kept in the camps as the easiest way of providing for them. The details of gratuitous relief in each district are as follows.

*Aurangabad district.*

83. The first poorhouse in the Aurangabad district was opened in the city of Aurangabad on the 26th November 1899, and the last one was closed on the 29th November 1900. There were altogether 11 poorhouses, which were all at the head-quarters of tehsils, except one village poorhouse at Pissoor, in the Kannar taluka, on the Berar frontier.

The highest attendance on any day was reached on the 7th July, when it was 23,543, composed of 15,863 adults and 7,680 children, the proportion being 100 children to 206 adults.

The total number relieved in the poorhouses of the Aurangabad district was—

Adults	..	...	...	..	1,887,344
Children from 8 to 12 years				...	410,220
Do.	under 8	„	..	...	457,049
Total ..					2,754,613

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 2,11,491, of which the direct Government expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,00,822, the balance of Rs. 10,669 having been met by local subscriptions. The cost per 1,000 persons per day was H. S. Rs. 76-12-5 or British Rs. 61-6-8.

84. A poorhouse in Aurangabad city was opened on the 26th November 1899 and kept open till the 16th November 1900. Owing to insufficient accommodation in the city, it had to be split up into two branches, one branch being located in the Jama masjid in the city and the other at Ismail Khan Roza, a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the city, where the large majority of the poor was fed. During the famine period, a daily units total of 18,075 *parda nishin* women was also relieved by gratuitous doles, this branch being worked under separate supervision.

The total number relieved was 934,065 and the highest attendance 6,790 on the 23rd June. The total expenditure was Rs. 74,992, of which Rs. 4,522 were met out of private subscriptions. This gives an average cost of Rs. 80-4-9 per 1,000.

85. A poorhouse was opened at Ambar on the Jalna Bir road on the 18th January and closed on the 10th November. The highest attendance was 729 on the 24th June, and the total number relieved 97,923. The cost to Government was Rs. 9,343, or an average of Rs. 95-7-1 per 1,000 persons per day.

86. The poorhouse at the head-quarters of the Bhokardan taluka was a comparatively small one. It was opened on the 18th February and closed on the 25th October. A total of 35,446 persons was relieved at a total cost of Rs. 2,289 (including subscriptions Rs. 1,023), or Rs. 64-9-2 per 1,000. The attendance never rose beyond 313 on the 21st June.

87. The Gangapur poorhouse was started on the 26th January and is still in progress in connection with the relief measures of 1901. The highest attendance was 717 on the 18th October and the total number relieved 126,306. The cost, including Rs. 221 raised by subscriptions, was Rs. 7,691 or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 60-14-4.

88. A poorhouse was opened at Jalna on the 21st January, and kept open till the 17th November. The largest number relieved on any one day in any poorhouse of this district was 12,146, which was returned by the Jalna poorhouse on the 7th July. The total number

relieved was 792,376 and the cost to Government Rs. 62,687, besides Rs. 3,043 raised by subscriptions, or a total of Rs. 65,730 which gives Rs. 82-15-0 per 1,000.

89. A total of 352,250 persons was relieved in the Kannar poorhouse, opened on the 29th January and closed on the 17th November, which shows that the distress must have been severe about this part of the country, though from the figures of area under cultivation and out-turn of produce, it would appear that this taluka was not so badly off as some others of this district. The highest attendance was 2,150 on the 4th May and the total cost Rs. 22,691 (including subscriptions amounting to Rs. 166), or an average of Rs. 64-6-8 per 1,000.

Kannar poorhouse

Later in the season, on the 29th August, a poorhouse was opened in Pissoor village, as the weak and infirm of the eastern part of the taluka could not reach Kannar, on account of a range of hills intervening. During nearly two months for which the poorhouse was kept open, 8,944 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 432 (including Rs. 33 raised by subscriptions,) the daily number never going beyond 173.

90. Pattan is situated on the Ahmed Nagar frontier of the Bombay Presidency and a poorhouse was opened at this place on the 20th January and kept open till the 29th November 1900. The highest attendance was 1,509 on the 22nd July and the total number relieved 183,005. The Government expenditure was Rs. 14,216 supplemented by subscriptions Rs. 607, or in all Rs. 14,823, which gives an average cost of Rs. 80-15-11 per 1,000. Those of His Highness' subjects who found their way to the Sheogaon poorhouse in Ahmed Nagar were drafted back to this poorhouse.

Pattan poorhouse.

91. A poorhouse was opened at Vijapur on the 21st January and like the Gangapur poorhouse, is still open in connection with the relief measures of 1901. The highest attendance was only 818 on the 14th May and the total number relieved 138,836. The expenditure (including subscriptions Rs. 827) was Rs. 10,714, which gives an average cost of Rs. 77-2-9 per 1,000.

Vijapur poorhouse.

92. There are two *sarf-i-khas* talukas in the Aurangabad district, in which two poorhouses, one at Sillor and the other at Roza, were opened on the 14th March and 13th May and closed on the 8th and 5th October respectively. A total of 85,562 persons at a total cost (including Rs. 227 raised by subscriptions) of Rs. 2,792 was relieved in these poorhouses.

Government poorhouses in  
*sarf-i-khas* talukas

#### *Bir district.*

93. In the Bir district there were 10 poorhouses, of which 7 were situated at the head-quarters of tehsils, and the remaining 3 at other towns.

Attendance and expenditure

The highest attendance on any day was reached on the 22nd May, when it was 17,125, composed of 11,162 adults and 5,963 children, the proportion being 140 children to 167 adults.

The first poorhouse was opened on the 17th November 1899 and the last poorhouse was closed on the 30th November 1900. The total number of persons relieved was—

Adults	...	...	...	...	...	1,821,910
Children from 8 to 12 years	...	...	...	...	...	556,461
Do. under 8 years	...	...	...	...	...	497,351
						<hr/>
Total						2,875,722
						<hr/>

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 2,05,832, of which Rs. 1,87,658 were expended from Government funds and the balance of Rs. 18,174 raised by private subscriptions. The cost per 1,000 per day was H.S. Rs. 71-9-2 or Government Rs. 57-4-2.

94. The first poorhouse was opened at Bir on the 17th November. It was maintained by private subscriptions, raised at the instance of the Talukdar of the district, to the end of January. After this Government relief was given till the close of the poorhouse on the 29th November 1900. The highest attendance of 7,106, was reached on the 21st July. The total number relieved was 1,194,409, and the total expenditure was Rs. 95,301, of which Government spent Rs. 90,384. The average cost per 1,000 persons was Rs. 78-2-10.

The poorhouse was originally located in Bir itself, but in March, when epidemic cholera broke out in Bir, it was shifted to *khazana bagh* some miles distant from the town. Further on, during the rains, the inmates were transferred to a village six miles distant where sufficient accommodation was available. After the rains were over, the poorhouse was re-transferred to Bir town.

95. A poorhouse was opened at Amba, adjoining the Mominabad cantonment, on the 28th January and was closed on the 30th November 1900. The highest number on relief was 2,065 on the 4th August. The expenditure from Government funds amounted to Rs. 19,212, supplemented by Rs. 835, private subscriptions collected by the second talukdar. The total number relieved was 278,936, giving a cost of Rs. 71-13-10 per 1,000.

96. Parli is an important commercial centre in the Amba taluka to which people came in considerable numbers. A poorhouse was opened by subscriptions raised locally at the instance of Mr. Olcese, an Italian merchant who owns a ginning factory at the station. It was opened on the 28th January and continued up to 6th October, the highest attendance of 3,758 having been reached on 19th May. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,821, of which Rs. 21,568 were paid by Government, and the balance of Rs. 3,253 met by subscriptions. The total number of persons relieved was 514,908, and the cost per 1,000 was Rs. 47-13-0.

The poorhouse was practically managed by Mr. and Mrs. Olcese till they were attacked by cholera in April, when Mr. Joshi, the headmaster of the local school, was appointed superintendent and remained in charge to the end.

97. The Manjalgaon poorhouse was started on the 14th January from subscriptions raised by the First and second Talukdars and the tehsildar. It was closed on the 30th November and the highest number relieved on any day reached 1,390 on the 28th July. The total expenditure was Rs. 8,047, of which Rs. 3,264 were raised by subscriptions. The total number relieved was 106,146, and the cost of 1,000 persons was Rs. 75-12-11.

98. A sum of Rs. 177 was raised by private subscriptions by the second talukdar, and a poorhouse was opened at the head-quarters of the Kej taluka on the 17th January. It was closed on the 27th October, the highest attendance having been 1,051 on the 7th May. The total expenditure including subscriptions was Rs. 12,037, and the number relieved 147,213 which works out to a cost per 1,000 persons of Rs. 81-12-3.

99. In the taluka of Kej, another poorhouse was opened at Dharur on the 5th February and closed on the 5th October. The highest attendance was 415 on the 13th May, and the total expenditure Rs. 1,818, of which the Government share was Rs. 1,488, the balance of Rs. 330 having been met by subscriptions. The total number relieved was 60,492, which gives a cost of Rs. 30-0-10 per 1,000.

100. Patoda is a *sarf-i-khas* taluka under Government management, and when distress increased in that locality, a poorhouse was started in the tehsil town on the 21st February and kept open till the 29th September. The highest daily attendance of 843 was reached on the 8th July. Government expended Rs. 7,053 on this poorhouse, which, calculated on the total number relieved, namely 99,766, gives an average per 1,000 persons of Rs. 70-11-1.

101. The poorhouse at Ashti, a tehsil town on the frontier of the Ahmed Nagar district of the Bombay Presidency, was opened out of funds locally subscribed amounting to Rs. 1,960 on the 18th February and was kept open till the 24th November. The highest attendance of 1,649 was reached on the 15th May. The total expenditure including subscriptions was Rs. 14,460, which gives a cost of Rs. 63-13-0 per 1,000 persons, on the total number relieved, namely 210,134.

The Talukdar reports that the Collector of Ahmed Nagar twice inspected this poorhouse and expressed his satisfaction on both the occasions.

102. Loni is a small jagir village, owned by a Rani situated in the Ashti taluka on the frontier, at which a poorhouse was opened on the 7th April and kept up till 20th October. The Rani subscribed Rs. 200 and the Government gave Rs. 2,000, and with these sums 31,706 persons were maintained during the above period. The attendance never rose to beyond 297, which was recorded on the 2nd June. The cost per 1,000 on the total expenditure works out to Rs. 69-6-2.

103. The poorhouse at Georai, a town on the Jalna Bir road, was started on the 26th January, and closed on the 29th November. The highest attendance was 1,518 on the 18th July. The total expenditure was Rs. 20,047, of which Rs. 3,238 were raised by subscriptions

and the balance of Rs. 16,809 paid from Government funds. The total number relieved was 232,012 and the cost per 1,000 works out to Rs. 86-13-6. The comparatively high cost of this poorhouse is explained by the Talukdar to be due to the increased scale of rations given under the direction of the Superintending Engineer, who found the people in an emaciated condition.

*Parbhani district.*

104. The largest number of poorhouses in any district was in the Parbhani district. There were six poorhouses at the head-quarters of each of the six talukas, and 23 poorhouses in villages both large and small. Parbhani was the only district where village relief was attempted on any systematic scale, and this was rendered possible by the services of Captain H. K. Dalyell, Indian Staff Corps, having been made available for famine duty. This officer, assisted by Mr. Ajaz Hussain, second talukdar, was constantly on the move, inspecting the village poorhouses and frequently submitted useful reports on their working. A part of this district adjoins Berar, and at one time there were serious complaints of the emigration of His Highness' subjects into Berar. These people were brought back and either employed on relief works or relieved in poorhouses in or near their homes. The arrangements for village relief were confined principally to the villages of Hingoli and Kalamnuri talukas, which were easily accessible from Hingoli, the head-quarters of Captain Dalyell.

105. The first poorhouse was opened on the 28th December 1899, and on the 1st December 1900, up to which the attendance figures are taken, there were two poorhouses in existence, at Hingoli and Narsi. The highest attendance on any day was reached on the 28th July, when it was 22,434, composed of 13,510 adults and 8,924 children, the proportion being 100 children to 151 adults.

The total number relieved in the poorhouses was—

Adults	...	1,798,713
Children from 8 to 12 years	... ..	419,087
Children under 8 years	... ..	837,080
		-----
Total..		3,054,910
		-----

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 2,81,369, out of which the direct Government expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,72,315, the balance of Rs. 9,054 having been met out of subscriptions raised locally, and from *sarf-i-khas* local funds in the case of Palam, &c. The average cost per 1,000 persons per day was H. S. Rs. 92-1-7 or British Rs. 73-10-10.

106. At the tehsil town of Basmat a poorhouse was in existence from the 5th February to the 1st December, where a total of 247,921 persons was relieved at a cost of Rs. 21,384, or Rs. 86-4-0 on an average per 1,000. The highest attendance was 2,051 on the 31st May.

• In this taluka a kitchen in connection with the Marsool camp of the Hingoli railway extension was maintained from the 15th April to the 12th May, at which an average of about 1,000 persons per diem was relieved.

A village poorhouse was also open for 84 days from 8th July to 29th September, which provided relief for 3,843 persons at a cost of Rs. 273.

107. The poorhouse at Hingoli was opened on the 28th December 1899 and the poorhouse at Narsi 10 miles distant, was started by transfer of people from Hingoli on the 8th April. These poorhouses were in existence on the 1st December 1900, up to which the figures of attendance are made up.

The highest attendance at the Hingoli poorhouse was 2,649 on the 14th September and the total number relieved 379,034. The cost, including Rs. 1,062 raised by subscriptions, was Rs. 28,837, which gives an average cost of Rs. 76 per 1,000 per diem. The Narsi poorhouse recorded its highest attendance of 3,235 on the 4th September, the total number relieved being 460,248 and the cost Rs. 42,996, or Rs. 93-6-8 per 1,000.

108. Besides the above, there were 8 village poorhouses in the Hingoli taluka, which were maintained for various periods from two to nearly five months. The largest of these was the Jaipur poorhouse, which was kept open from the 10th June to the 27th October, and at which 118,649 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 12,092, or an average of 101-14-7 per 1,000, which is due to the high price of grain near the frontier. The highest attendance was 1,376 on the 5th October.

Next in importance were the poorhouses in Goregaon and Kannargaon, where 29,547 and 35,257 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 2,773 and Rs. 2,369 respectively, or an average of Rs. 93-13-7 and Rs. 67-3-0 per 1,000 per diem. The difference in the cost in these poorhouses has not been explained. It may be due to an arrangement Captain Dalyell made of getting some people employment in the fields at a low wage and making up the difference to them.

109. The poorhouse at the head-quarters of the Kalamnuri taluka was opened on the 24th January and closed on the 1st December. The highest attendance was 3,176 on the 26th August, and the total number relieved was 444,335. The expenditure, including Rs. 3,048 raised by subscriptions, was Rs. 37,190, or an average of Rs. 83-11-2 per 1,000.

110. Besides the above, there were 7 village poorhouses in the Kalamnuri taluka which were maintained for periods varying from one to three months and at which a total 93,780 persons, at a cost of Rs. 7,642, was relieved. The average cost per 1,000 in these village poorhouses was Rs. 81-7-9.

Of the above, the only village poorhouse that deserves note here is the Gundha poorhouse which was open from the 18th June to the 20th October, and at which 80,357 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 6,372. The highest attendance was 1,316 on the 27th September.

111. The poorhouse at the head-quarters of the Parbhani district was opened on the 2nd February and continued up to the 25th November. The highest attendance was 3,542 on the 8th July, and the total number relieved 323,718.

Parbhani poorhouse.

The expenditure was Rs. 19,573, including Rs. 837 raised by local subscriptions, which gives an average cost per 1,000 persons of Rs. 60-7-5.

112. In July, when an epidemic of cholera appeared in Parbhani, the poorhouse was transferred by the Talukdar from Parbhani to Pingli, a distance of 11 miles. The Parbhani poorhouse thus remained closed from the 21st July to the 21st August when I ordered it to be reopened. The Pingli poorhouse was opened on the 22nd July and closed on the 15th September. The highest attendance was 1,439 on the 14th August, and the total number relieved 43,580. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,145, which gives an average of Rs. 64-11-9 per 1,000 per diem.

Pingli poorhouse

113. A poorhouse was started at the village of Dahitana in the Parbhani taluka on the 11th June and closed on the 13th September. The highest attendance was 1,043 on the 8th July and a total of 66,605 was relieved at a cost of Rs. 3,230, or an average of Rs. 48-7-11 per 1,000.

Dahitana poorhouse

114. The poorhouse at the tehsil town of Pathri remained open from the 6th February to the 13th October and the highest attendance was 2,987 on the 19th May. Altogether 364,649 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 26,985 or an average of Rs. 48-7-11 per 1,000. I was not able to see this poorhouse myself but I frequently heard bad reports of it. In fact in many instances the people were given doles of grain, not sufficient to sustain life, but as a supplement to what they obtained from private charity.

Pathri poorhouse.

115. On the 13th June a poorhouse was opened at Sailu, a station on the new railway which at the time was the terminus up to which trains from Manmar ran. It was closed on the 13th October and during this period 50,191 persons were relieved, the highest attendance being 732 on the 17th June. The cost was Rs. 2,729 or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 54-5-11. In this poorhouse also supplementary doles were given until I discovered and stopped the system. The arrangements for feeding were subsequently put under the control, to some extent at least, of the medical officer.

Sailu poorhouse.

116. The Jintur poorhouse was kept open from the 29th January to the 1st December during which 154,368 persons were relieved, the highest number of 1,179 having been returned on the 12th August. Including subscriptions amounting to Rs. 901, the expenditure was Rs. 14,127 which gives an average of Rs. 91-8-3 per 1,000.

Jintur poorhouse.

117. Palam is a *surf-i-khas* taluka, at the head-quarters of which a poorhouse was maintained from the 19th February to the 27th September, during which 41,165 persons were relieved at a cost, met from the local funds, of Rs. 2,385.

Other poorhouses.

Shishti is an attached jagir, from the funds of which a poorhouse was kept open at Shishti from 4th July to 27th October, during which 15,207 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 821.

*Nander district.*

118. The whole of this district was not affected by famine and poorhouses were not opened in every tehsil town. In the beginning, when distress began to be felt, poorhouses were opened by local subscriptions in the Nander and Hadgaon talukas, the latter of which adjoins Berar. In the talukas of Bhysa, Usman Nagar, Biloli and Diglur, the orders contained in circular VIII authorising tehsildars to relieve distressed or starving persons within an expenditure of one rupee per day were given effect to, but when the season advanced and the talukas of Biloli and Diglur were removed from the famine area, this system was stopped. In Usman Nagar, however, the system continued to the very end and the attendance never rose to beyond five.

119. There were 6 poorhouses, five of which were at tehsil head-quarters. The first poorhouse was opened on 26th January and the last one closed on the 23rd November. The highest attendance was recorded on the 3rd July when it was 12,816, composed of 9,383 adults and 3,433 children, the proportion being 100 children to 276 adults.

The total number relieved in the poorhouses of the Nander district was—

Adults . . . . .	743,082
Children from 8 to 12 years . . . . .	198,132
„ under 8 years . . . . .	151,887
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	1,088,101
	<hr/>

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 1,08,808, made up of Government funds Rs. 1,06,490, and subscriptions Rs. 2,318. The average cost per 1,000 persons was H. S. Rs. 100, or British Rs. 80.

120. There were two poorhouse at Nander. The Government institution was opened on the 26th January and closed on the 17th November. The highest attendance was 6,000 on the 22nd June, and the total number relieved 497,949. The expenditure was Rs. 56,781, the average cost per 1,000 working out to Rs. 118-4-10.

The site of the Nander poorhouse was selected by the Talukdar and I do not think a worse site could possibly have been selected. It was situated about three miles from the town, on the opposite bank of the Godavari river. In the hot weather the distance was perhaps not of much consequence, but in the rains the cart track across black cotton soil was impassable, and the camp was practically shut off from communication with the town of Nander and with the officers who should have inspected it. During a storm the sheds were blown down, and the inmates of the poorhouse were subjected to very great hardships, many of them dying as they tried to make their way back to Nander. The Talukdar on this occasion reported the death of 253 persons, who were endeavouring to find shelter after the sheds and huts were blown down.

121. The poorhouse at the tehsil town of Hadgaon, which is situated on the frontier was opened on the 4th February and continued up to the 23rd November, during which period 53,542 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 5,844 (of which Rs. 121 were raised by subscriptions). The average cost per 1,000 persons works out to Rs. 109-2-4, which is accounted for by the fact that for some weeks jawari sold at the high rate of 1 to 5 seers per rupee. The highest attendance was 440 on the 12th July.

Hadgaon and Wadhona  
poorhouses

The Wadhona poorhouse, as a Government institution, was maintained from the 25th June up to the 21st November. The highest attendance was 1,105 on the 17th July and the total number relieved 70,626. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,093, or Rs. 128-11-11 per 1,000.

122. Mukher is the head-quarters of the Kandahar taluka, and the poorhouse in this town was kept open from the 1st February to the 5th November, during which period 357,801 persons were given relief. The highest attendance was 4,954 on the 26th June and the total expenditure, including Rs. 1,080 raised by subscriptions, was Rs. 24,724, or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 69-1-7.

Mukher poorhouse

123. The Bhysa poorhouse was started on the 26th February and closed on the 6th October. The highest attendance was 1,368 on the 22nd September, and the total number relieved 108,025. Including Rs. 792 raised by subscriptions, the expenditure was Rs. 10,431, or an average of Rs. 96-8-11 per 1,000 per diem.

Bhysa poorhouse

#### *Naldurg dist. et.*

124. In addition to the seven poorhouses, which were opened at the head-quarters of each of the seven talukas of the Naldurg district, two were opened at each end of the Latur Yedsi road, namely at Dhoki and Latur, one at Yermalla on the Yermalla Mominabad road, and one at a village called Savargaon in the Tuljapur taluka near the Sholapur frontier. The first poorhouse was opened on the 11th December 1899 and the last one was closed on the 1st December 1900, but the poorhouse at Parendah is still open in connection with the operations of 1901. The highest attendance was reached on the 22nd June when it was 27,911 composed of 17,048 adults and 10,863 children, giving a proportion of 100 children to 157 adults.

The total number relieved was—

Adults	...	...	...	.	...	...	2,110,513
Children from 8 to 12 years	...	...	...	.	.	.	571,160
Children under 8 years	..	...	...	...	...	...	728,918
							<hr/>
Total...							3,410,591
							<hr/>

The total expenditure was Rs. 2,70,406 (including subscriptions Rs. 764), which on the total number relieved, gives an average cost per 1,000 persons per day of H. S. Rs. 79-4-6 or British Rs. 63-6-10.

125. A poorhouse was opened at the head-quarters of the district on the 24th December 1899 and closed on the 27th November. The highest attendance was 3,774 on the 26th July and the total number relieved 410,340. The expenditure was Rs. 31,930 or an average of Rs. 77-13-0 per 1,000.

Dharasco poorhouse.

126. Dhoki is a village on the Latur Yedsi road, about three miles from the British frontier, where a poorhouse was maintained from the 11th January to the 1st December 1900 during which period 226,707 persons were relieved at a cost of Rs. 18,001, or an average of Rs. 79-6-5 per 1,000. The highest attendance was 1,626 on the 7th July.

Dhoki poorhouse.

127. The Kallam poorhouse was opened on the 15th December 1899 and closed on the 1st December 1900. A total of 222,991 persons was relieved during this period at a cost of Rs. 18,869, or Rs. 84-9-10 per 1,000. The highest attendance was 2,320 on the 24th June.

Kallam poorhouse.

128. The poorhouse at Naldurg was maintained from the 1st January to the 3rd November 1900, during which 350,003 persons were relieved at a total cost of Rs. 24,874, or an average cost of Rs. 71-1-1 per 1000. The highest attendance was 4,067 on the 23rd August.

Naldurg poorhouse.

129. The poorhouse at Ousa was opened on the 8th January and closed on the 1st December 1900. The highest attendance of 7,027 was returned on the 16th July, the total number relieved being 782,200. The expenditure was Rs. 68,020, or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 86-15-4.

Ousa poorhouse

130. Latur is an important trade mart in the Ousa taluka, and the point from which the two roads, Latur Yedsi road and Latur Ousa road, start. A poorhouse was opened by private subscriptions. It was opened as a Government institution on the 5th April and continued to the 10th November 1900, during which 479,660 persons were relieved, at a cost of Rs. 40,098, or an average of Rs. 83-9-6 per 1,000 per diem. The highest attendance was 4,522 on the 6th July.

Latur poorhouse.

131. The Parendah poorhouse was opened on the 15th December 1899 and still continues in connection with the operations of 1901. The total number relieved up to the 1st December 1900 was 196,304 and the expenditure, including Rs 734 raised by subscriptions, was Rs. 14,383, which gives an average cost of Rs. 73-4-3 per 1,000. The highest attendance recorded was 1,454 on the 25th June.

Parendah poorhouse.

132. A poorhouse was opened at Tuljapur, to provide relief for His Highness' subjects who were brought back from Sholapur, on the 11th December 1899 and closed on the 8th November 1900. The highest attendance was 3,614 on the 14th June, and the total number relieved was 407,978. The total expenditure was Rs 31,169, or an average of Rs. 76-6-4 per 1,000.

Tuljapur poorhouse.

133. Savargaon is a village in the Tuljapur taluka near the Sholapur frontier, and rather late in the season, a poorhouse was opened at this village on the 13th May, which continued up to the 4th November. The highest attendance was 1,341 on the 20th June and the total number relieved 121,234. The expenditure was Rs. 8,283, or an average of Rs. 68-5-1 per 1,000.

134. The Wasi poorhouse was maintained from the 15th January to the 9th November 1900, during which period a total of 141,464 persons was relieved at a cost (including subscriptions, Rs. 30) of Rs. 9,967, or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 70-7-3. The highest attendance was 1,541 on the 30th June.

135. In the Wasi taluka, a poorhouse was also opened at Yermalla, an important customs outpost on the Yermalla Mominabad road, on the 8th April and continued up to the 5th November 1900. The highest attendance was 869 on the 1st July and the total number relieved 71,710. The expenditure was Rs. 7,331, or an average of Rs. 102-3-0 per 1,000.

*Gulbargah district.*

136. It was felt unnecessary to open any poorhouse in the Gulbargah district until late in the season. A poorhouse in the vicinity of the Hominabad road was maintained, at a cost of Rs. 45 for a few days in the month of May. In June the Subadar of the division represented the necessity of opening a poorhouse at Gulbargah to relieve many poor persons who had come into the town in search of charity.

A poorhouse was accordingly opened on the 6th July and kept open till the 27th October. The highest attendance was 2,500 on the 2nd August 1900, composed of 1,395 adults and 1,105 children. The proportion of adults to 100 children was 126. The total number relieved in this poorhouse was—

Adults	...	...	...	...	...	51,163
Children from 8 to 12 years	...	...	...	...	...	18,966
Do. under 8 years	...	...	...	...	...	16,405
Total						86,534

The total expenditure was Rs. 7,353 and the average cost per 1,000 per day was H.S. Rs. 84-15-0 or British Rs. 67-15-3.

137. The inmates of the poorhouse were engaged on some light work in connection with the cleaning of the compound of the large masjid at Gulbargah, at which a total of 34,674 persons was employed for 15 days in the month of August. The expenditure charged to the poorhouse amounted to Rs. 3,359-12-9.

*Bidar district.*

138. A poorhouse was opened at the head-quarters of each of four talukas, and three village poorhouses in the Nilanga taluka which was reported to be in an acute state of distress.

The highest attendance was returned on the 26th July when it was 13,386 composed of 7,408 adults and 5,978 children, giving a proportion of 100 children to 125 adults.

The first poorhouse was opened on the 5th March, and the last was closed on the 1st December. The total number relieved was—

Adults	...	...	...	..	918,259
Children from 8 to 12 years	.		...	...	195,595
„ under 8 years	..	.	.	...	418,791
Total...					<u>1,532,645</u>

The total expenditure was Rs. 1,21,248 which gives an average cost per 1,000 persons per day of H.S. Rs. 79-1-8, or British Rs. 63-4-7.

139. At the head-quarters of the Bidar district, a poorhouse was maintained from the 10th April to the 23rd October 1900, during which period a total of 185,667 persons was relieved at a cost of Rs. 13,738, or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 73-15-10. The highest attendance was 2,050 on the 14th July.

140. Rajura was a seriously affected taluka and a poorhouse was kept up at the tehsil head-quarters from the 5th March to the 1st December 1900. The severity of the distress may be judged from the fact that the highest attendance was 3,454 on the 7th July. The total number relieved was 416,517 and the expenditure Rs. 37,286, which gives an average cost per 1,000 of Rs. 89-8-3.

141. Like Rajura, Udgir was also seriously affected. A poorhouse, opened at Udgir on the 23rd March and continued up to the 4th November 1900, afforded relief to 336,318 persons, and cost Rs. 35,178, or an average per 1,000 of Rs. 104-9-6. The highest attendance was 2,971 on the 27th July.

142. But perhaps the worst taluka in the Bidar district was Nilanga, where poorhouses were opened at the tehsil town and three villages besides. The tehsil poorhouse remained open from the 25th May to the 24th November 1900. A total of 412,731 persons, with a highest attendance of 4,328 on the 2nd August—the highest of any poorhouse in the district,—was relieved at a cost of Rs. 21,319. The average cost per 1,000 works out to Rs. 51-10-5 only, and this is accounted for by the cheap price of grain. That cheap grain and acute distress existed side by side can only be explained by saying that the able-bodied of this taluka had been drafted to the relief works in the adjoining talukas of Rajura and Udgir, and those that remained behind, owing to their apathetic indifference to go to works had fallen into such a low state that they became qualified for poorhouse relief.

In the three village poorhouses, which were maintained from the middle of July to the 24th November 1900, a total of 181,412 persons was relieved at a cost of Rs. 13,724, or an average of Rs. 75-10-5 per 1,000. The highest attendance was reached in September, when the figures were—

Madamsuri poorhouse ( 5th Sept.)	...	...	...	979
Halgira poorhouse (10th Sept.)	...	...	...	1,449
Nittoor poorhouse (18th Sept.)	...	...	...	763

*Poorhouses in the partially affected area.*

143. A poorhouse was opened at Edlabad, the head-quarters of the Amaldari of Sirpur Tandur, on the 13th May to relieve the distressed persons who had flocked to that place from the famine area in search of work.

Edlabad poorhouse.

It was kept open to the 16th November. The highest attendance was 699 on the 8th June, composed of 259 adults and 331 children, or 78 adults to every 100 children.

The total number relieved was—

Adults	...	.	...	...	...	18,268
Children from 8 to 12 years			.	.	...	2,218
„ under 8 years	...	...	...	...	...	23,462
Total						43,948

The total expenditure was Rs. 3,121, which includes Rs. 137 raised by private subscriptions. The average cost per 1,000 per day works out to H. S. Rs. 71-0-2 or British Rs. 56-13-0.

144. At one time it was feared that distress in the Lingsugur district would deepen to such an extent as to necessitate the opening of relief works and poorhouses, and as a precautionary measure, sanction for Rs. 30,000 was conveyed and the Talukdar directed to start irrigation works in consultation with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The season passed away and the rains set in without any work being started and it was subsequently represented that the distress around Shorapur was so acute as to render the opening of a poorhouse imperative. A poorhouse was accordingly opened on the 17th July and closed on the 1st December. The highest attendance was reached on the 3rd September when it was 349, composed of 213 adults and 136 children, the proportion of adults to 100 children being 157.

Shorapur poorhouse

The total number relieved was—

Adults	...	...	..	...	..	23,526
Children from 8 to 12 years			.	...	...	6,815
„ under 8 years	...	...	...	..	...	5,024
Total						35,365

The total expenditure, including Rs. 756 raised by subscriptions was Rs. 2,295, which works out to an average cost per 1,000 persons of H.S. Rs. 64-14-9 or British Rs. 51-15-0.

145. The Warangal district was included in the partially affected area and irrigation works opened at different places afforded employment. In June and July, when the rains were delayed, it was necessary to give gratuitous relief. The second talukdar had been running a private poorhouse at Hanamkondah, the head-quarters of the Warangal district, but as the numbers increased, an application was received for Government aid and the institution was started from Government funds on

Poorhouses in Warangal district.



The above figures give a proportion of 70 adults to 100 children. The expenditure was Rs. 1,319, or an average per 1,000 persons per day of H. S. Rs. 40-6-4 or British Rs. 32-5-0.

#### D.—CHARITABLE DONATIONS.

148. The famine department has received very material help during the year from the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund. The first offer of assistance was made on the 21st March 1900 reaching me on the 7th April. The Central Committee in Calcutta had asked the Resident what organization could be arranged in Hyderabad both for the collection and distribution of funds, and how far the system adopted by the Central Committee could be approached.

In forwarding the correspondence, the Resident asked whether the Government required help and suggested that if the reply were in the affirmative, the distribution of all the monies made available for this purpose by the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund should be limited to the four objects approved by the Government of India, and that it should be under the supervision of Mr. Dunlop.

This letter reached me, through the Private Secretary's office, at Aurangabad in the first week of April, at a time when I was in great difficulties about money and was in daily expectation of hearing whether my famine programme had been approved or not. I could not therefore at once reply to the Resident's letter, for reasons which can be seen from the following extract of a letter addressed to the Financial Secretary on the 27th April—

"I have delayed replying to this reference from day to day in the hope that I would receive the orders or comments of His Highness' Government on the famine programme which I submitted with my No. 2971, dated 6th March 1900, so that I might know how far His Highness' Government are prepared to combat the distress caused by famine. I also wished to see myself safely out of the difficulties, which are still being experienced, of having no funds to pay for the relief works now being carried on. (In your telegram of the 21st instant, I am informed that a further grant of Rs. 7,70,000 is sanctioned. but up to date the official confirmation has not been received and being unable to draw the money, I am practically no better off in the districts than I was before.)

"It is obvious that if His Highness' Government wish to participate in the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, they should be able to show that they themselves are straining the Government resources to meet the crisis and in submitting their views to the Resident, it would be desirable to show how far His Highness' Government are able and prepared to expend money on famine.

"It is also I think incumbent to show that the well-to-do people of the Hyderabad State are willing to help their poorer neighbours. So far as I know, but being far from the head-quarters, my information may be incorrect, no movement has yet been made in Hyderabad for raising subscriptions for the famine and I think it is very desirable that steps should be taken in this direction before asking for help from outside.

"In the Aurangabad division, owing mainly to the exertions of the Subadar, Nawab Bashir Nawaz Jung Bahadur, donations towards relief have amounted to Rs. 38,330, subscriptions in cash being Rs. 16,607 and in grain Rs. 21,723. But the whole, or most of this money, has already been expended in maintaining the poor and there is no balance available for forming a special fund. In other divisions, so far as I have been informed, no money has been collected.

"Assuming that His Highness' Government will adopt a liberal famine programme and that local subscriptions will be raised, it would not be unreasonable to ask for a grant from the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, which we could undertake to expend on any of the four objects approved by the Government of India. But further than this, the distress is so severe in the famine area that I do not think His Highness' Government would be justified in refusing such aid unless they are prepared to come forward and directly help the ryots and others under the four heads specified.

"The necessities of the case are so great, especially in the case of cultivators who have lost their cattle and are deprived of the means of cultivation, that it is difficult to frame an estimate within any reasonable limit. But as the calls on the Fund will be very great, I do not think from this point of view, we could ask for more than 5 lakhs, which would give 1 lakh to each of the famine districts, *viz.* Aurangabad, Parbhani, Nander, Bir and Naldurg.

"It is extremely doubtful whether so large a grant as this will be given from the Fund, but if it were given, the money could be well expended on the relief of the people, supplemented, as I hope it would be, by local subscriptions.

"A Committee should be appointed for the expenditure of the money."

This led to further correspondence which need not be detailed here. The long and short of the matter is that the money which I might have had in the second week of April, did not reach me till the 2nd July.

The Resident's letter conveying a Bank order for the first instalment of Rs. 50,000, dated the 25th June, prescribed the following procedure—

"Mr. Dunlop may be advised to call a general meeting of the more influential people of Aurangabad if he has not done so already, and explain the objects of the fund with a view to (a) contributions and (b) the sympathy and check of public opinion. When the Honourable the Resident learns that the Committee has been actually formed and receives a final list of members and a copy of the proceedings of any meetings, general or otherwise, that may be held, a further allotment will be made from the Rs. 80,000 available, over and above the Rs. 50,000 now under reference. I am to invite your attention to Mr. Blakesley's letter No. 793 of the 4th April 1900, from the enclosures of which you will see that the Committee, or Mr. Dunlop, has to submit accounts for the information of the Central Committee in Calcutta."

149. The first step I took was to appoint as strong and representative a committee as possible at Aurangabad with sub-committees in the districts. The Aurangabad committee was composed of the following—

Hyderabad committee and sub-committees.

*President.*

Famine Commissioner.

*Vice-President.*

Subadar (Commissioner) Aurangabad division.

*Members.*

First Talukdar (Collector) Aurangabad district.

Do. do. Bir district.

Do. do. Parbhani district.

Do. do. Naldurg district.

Rev. W. C. Whiteside, C. M. S. Mission, Aurangabad.

Rev. Father J. Raymond, R. C. Mission, Aurangabad.

Rev. Dr. A. G. Mowatt, Scotch Mission, Jalna.

Shah Mahmood Sajjada Panchukki, Jagirdar, Aurangabad.

*Merchants and Bankers.*

Govindram Kasiram; Chunnalil Kastoorchand; Muncherjee Nasserwanjee.

*Secretary.*

Mr. Govind Ramchandra Kale, B. A., Principal, Aurangabad College.

Sub-committees were also formed in the districts under the Talukdars.

150. We have received altogether a liberal grant of Rs. 2,30,000 from the Central Committee, besides Rs. 1,00,000 which were given to me specially for the purchase of bullocks and which is still in the Bank of Bengal. I had also recently a telegram from the Secretary of

Grants received from Fund.

the Fund asking if I required any money for orphans, to which I replied in the negative, partly because it is the duty of Government to maintain the orphans, partly also because there are sufficient funds on hand, and also largely because a committee has been formed in Hyderabad for raising funds for an orphanage for famine children.

The first instalment of Rs. 50,000 received in July was immediately distributed by the Aurangabad committee as follows :—

	Rs.
Aurangabad district ... ..	8,000
Jalna (Aurangabad district) ... ..	6,000
Bir district ... ..	10,000
Parbhani district ... ..	10,000
Naldurg district ... ..	14,000
Nander district ... ..	2,000

151. The most crying want at that time was for clothes and blankets, and the attention of the committees was chiefly directed to these objects. Later, when more money was received, large sums were given for bullocks and seed, and in some cases, cash was given to persons returning to their homes. It is unfortunate, the money was received so late in the season. Had I got it when it was first offered in April, the whole grant could have been very usefully expended. As it is, there is a balance of Govt. Rs 41,937 on hand, which has either to be expended now or to be returned to the Central Committee.

152. The distribution of the funds, or the clothes when supplied in kind, has I think been carried out with discrimination and care. We certainly took every possible precaution to ensure this. Perhaps, in some cases, I have been over-careful. Broadly speaking, the distribution has been made by the members of the committees individually, or by individuals not on the committee, rather than by the committees collectively. The work of distribution was by no means confined to officials. Wherever possible, I availed myself of the services of missionaries, and in some other instances was able to secure the kindly services of others. For instance, Mrs. Clift, the wife of an Executive Engineer on the Railway, kindly undertook to distribute charity to poor *parda nishin* women in Nander, and Mrs. Olcese, the wife of an Italian merchant, assisted in the distribution of charity at Parbhani. The larger sums were disbursed by the following—

<i>Officials.</i>		Rs.	A.	P.
Famine Commissioner (mostly for cloth sent to district officers.) }		36,261	5	6
Subadar of Aurangabad ... ..		21,411	2	10
District Talukdars and } other Revenue officers }		75,499	5	0
Engineers ... ..		5,821	10	8
Captain Dalyell, Inspecting relief officer ... ..		6,177	5	9
Total officials ...		1,45,173	13	9
<i>Non-officials.</i>				
Missionaries ... ..		25,060	0	0
Committee at Jalna ... ..		5,103	11	0
Mrs. Clift, Nander ... ..		1,432	2	7
Total non-officials ...		31,535	13	7

During a visit I paid to Gulbargah, I found the weavers of that town in great distress, and instead of giving them advances, as was done at Nander with Government money, I purchased their available stock, to the value of Govt. Rs. 4,197-8-7 and gave orders for more cloth. Altogether the Gulbargah weavers have supplied through the Talukdar cloth to the value of Govt. Rs. 12,078-2-4, and in this way they were tided over the period of distress. These sums are included in the above figures.

153. Some details have still to be received from the districts and until these come in, the accounts cannot be closed. But the expenditure up to date is Govt. Rs. 1,76,709-11-4. The objects for which this money has been expended are—

<i>Objects.</i>	<i>Number relieved.</i>	<i>Value. Govt. Rs.</i>
OBJECT I.—Food or clothing for the aged, infirm, patients in hospitals, children and like—		
Gift of clothing or blankets. ..	86,322	80,595-12-5
Medical comforts. ... ..	...	357-14-0
OBJECT III.—Relieving poor re- spectable persons, who will not apply for relief—		
By gift of clothing or blankets.	3,566	3,695-5-5
By money or grain doles. ...	4,605	7,686-0-0
OBJECT IV.—Restoring to their original position persons who have lost all in the struggle—		
By seed, grain, bullocks or cash.	1,746	73,495-8-5
Helping artizans. ... ..	49	735-0-0
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>96,288</u>
Miscellaneous expenditure.*	...	1,66,565-8-3
		<u>10,144-3-1</u>
	Grand total.	<u>1,76,709-11-4</u>

In the case of bullocks, I adopted a system of purchasing bullocks and lending them to the ryots for ploughing and sowing their fields. Purchases amounting in all to 1,033 bullocks, were made in Mhow in Central India, and about Warangal in the Telingana districts of Hyderabad territory. Depôts were formed in certain villages from which the bullocks could be obtained, and when one man's work was completed, they were taken on to do another man's. The tehsildar of Nander, Syed Noorullah Shah Hussaini, took a great interest in this system and worked it successfully. Captain Dalyell also took it up in the Parbhani district, but was recalled to military duty before he could really establish it. The bullocks have since been given away to the ryots, or are in process of being distributed. Through the Revd. Mr. Whiteside and others, large sums in cash were given to the ryots for the purchase of bullocks.

154. Through the instrumentality mainly of Nawab Bashir Nawaz Jung Bahadur, Subadar of Aurangabad, subscriptions were raised in the Aurangabad division in cash or grain to the extent of Rs. 56,233 as under.

\* The miscellaneous expenditure includes railway charges for cattle, cloth and blankets, besides other items.

DISRICT.	Amount subscribed in cash.	Value of grain sub- scribed.	Total.
	H. S. Rs.	H. S. Rs.	H. S. Rs.
Aurangabad ... ..	12,164	1,544	13,708
Bir ... ..	2,722	15,082	17,804
Parbhani ... ..	9,770	77	9,847
Nander ... ..	4,532	10,342	14,874
Total...	29,188	27,045	56,233
Received by Famine Com- missioner from H. E. the Minister ... ..	1,375	..	1,375
Grand total ..	30,563	27,045	57,608

Nearly the whole of this sum was expended prior to receipt of funds from Calcutta and does not therefore appear in the accounts submitted to the Central Committee of the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund.

155. The weavers of Nander were given advances from Government funds amounting to Rs. 25,000 and in Bir, similar advances have been given of Rs. 10,000.

Relief to weavers and arti-  
zans in Nander and Bir

E.—MEDICAL RELIEF AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

156. Medical relief was arranged for by Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Lawrie, the Director of the medical department, who placed at my disposal Dr. Mazhar Husain, Inspector of dispensaries, Aurangabad division, for employment as the Controlling Medical Officer. Dr. Mazhar Husain had, like myself, his head-quarters at Aurangabad and was in constant communication with me.

General.

157. Owing to a dearth of medical officers, it was necessary to fall back on vaccinators, who are generally qualified dressers. They were placed in charge of camps and in some instances did useful work. In other intances complaints were received of the incapacity and inattention of the medical officers, and I am afraid these complaints were too often well-founded, but in point of fact there was no further reserve of medical officers to draw upon. Lieut.-Colonel Lawrie did his utmost to meet the demand for officers, but he could not give what he did not possess, and when the camps were at the fullest strength, it was inevitable under the circumstances that the medical arrangements should in parts be insufficient. Dr. Mazhar Husain was himself indefatigable in making the most of the men at his disposal. He visited the camps frequently and gave me in his reports much useful information regarding them; in some of the large works, where vaccinators had to be employed, he appointed a medical officer to the supervision of three or four camps.

Dearth of medical officers.

158. There were in all 68 dispensaries established, as below—

Camp dispensaries.

District.	Number of camp dispensaries.			
Aurangabad ... ..	...	...	...	13
Bir ... ..	...	...	...	13
Parbhani ... ..	...	...	...	16

*Camp dispensaries—continued.*

<i>District.</i>						<i>Number of camp dispensaries.</i>
Nander ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
Naldurg ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	14
Gulbargah ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bidar ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sirpur Tandur ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total ...						68

*Medical store.*

159. A central medical store was established in Aurangabad, from which most of the supplies of medicines, etc., was issued.

*Strength of medical establishment*

160. The total strength of the medical branch consisted of—

Controlling Medical Officer	..	..	...	1
Doctors ...	...	...	...	6
Hospital assistants	...	...	...	15
Vaccinators	...	...	...	48
Compounders	...	..	...	6
Nurse	...	...	...	1
Total ...				77

*Medical expenditure.*

161. The total expenditure was :—

					R.	A.	P.
Pay of medical officers and establishments debitable to famine ... ..					24,880	11	9
Cost of medicines and instruments					14,433	5	2
Cost of medical comforts					1,177	11	3
Miscellaneous					376	0	0
Total					40,867	12	2

162. The diseases which were commonly prevalent in the relief camps were ague, dyspepsia, ulcers, dysentery, guinea worm, abscesses, bronchitis and dropsy. The total number of cases treated and of deaths from common diseases was as follows.

DISTRICT.			CASES.			DEATHS.		
			In relief camps.	In poor-houses.	Total.	In relief camps.	In poor-houses.	Total.
Aurangabad ..	...	...	12,620	4,931	17,601	965	1,580	2,545
Bir	...	...	4,666	1,887	6,553	430	926	1,356
Parbhani	...	...	6,122	4,411	10,533	565	871	1,436
Nander	...	...	376	3,032	3,408	34	308	342
Gulbargah	...	...	2,084	10	2,094	87	5	92
Bidar	...	...	419	1,133	1,552	15	988	1,003
Naldurg	...	...	2,553	4,380	6,933	230	1,821	2,051
Sirpur Tandur	...	...	...	133	133	...	13	13
Total ...			28,840	19,967	48,807	2,326	6,512	8,838

The percentage of deaths to cases treated is 32·6 in the poorhouses and 8 in the relief camps. This difference is very considerable but perhaps not more than might be expected as the poorhouses were filled, not only with the emaciated but also with persons suffering from almost every conceivable disease. In the Bidar district the percentage of deaths is so high as 87, but dysentery and diarrhoea were raging for some time and caused this high mortality.

163. In the month of March, cholera made its appearance and did sad havoc in some of the camps, disorganizing the work to a great extent. In one camp in the Bir district the people dispersed altogether. In many camps work was seriously interfered with during the cholera scare. A statement is given in Appendix XIX showing the number of attacks and deaths in each camp and poorhouse. The total number of attacks and deaths by cholera was—

		Attacks.	Deaths.
Relief camps	...	8,328	3,873
Poorhouses	...	838	570
Total		9,186	4,443

The percentage of deaths on attacks was 48·4.

164. Cholera commenced in the camps in the Aurangabad district in the early part of March, increased in severity in April, and continued up to July after which it ceased. It commenced in the western part of the country and gradually spread eastward. The largest number of cases was on the Pattan road, the Lassura Boregaon road, the Gangapur Lassura road and the Ajanta road.

In the Naldurg district the epidemic commenced in March, was most severe in April, and then slowly declined.

In the Parbhani district it commenced in April and reached its highest numbers in June and afterwards the disease slowly died out. The camps on the Hingoli Railway Nos. 1 and 4 were badly affected. A change in the position of one of these camps had a marked effect in stamping out the disease. In the other camps in this district the epidemic was in a mild form.

The other camps in the districts were not very seriously affected having only a few hundred cases. In the poorhouses cholera was most severe at Aurangabad and Udgir (Bidar district) where there were 139 and 364 deaths respectively.

165. The total mortality from cholera and other diseases in camps and poorhouses was 13,281. The death rate when compared to the number of persons treated is about 22·9 per cent.

166. In the beginning of the famine the extent of emaciation, in the poorhouses especially, was very great, and throughout, the emaciated were formed into a special class under the doctor's care and given extra diet. The scale of diet for a poorhouse is sufficient to maintain a person in health if he starts fair, but all our experience tended to show that it was insufficient to bring an emaciated person into a normal state of health. In the Aurangabad poorhouse, where there was at one time in the emaciated class more than 900 persons out of a total attendance of over 7,000, we made many dietary experiments giving the adults meat for some time, which was cheaper than *dal*, and we satisfied ourselves that without extra diet the weakly could not recover their strength. In most cases the extra diet

became too weak to leave. Over and over again in this famine, I have had practical personal experience of the difficulty of affording relief, because the people would not help themselves where it was within their power to do so. It was comparatively easy to give relief to the thousands and thousands who came to the camps and poorhouses, it was even not very difficult to give relief to the respectable classes of *parda nishin* women, who could not beg and had to be assisted in their houses, but the real difficulty was to assist and save the lives of the lower classes who for one reason or another did not go to the nearest relief centre, whether camp or poorhouse.

172. Shortly after the relief works were started, I opened a maternity hospital in the city of Aurangabad, locating it in a *serai*, or rest-house, which was well suited for the purpose. Mrs. Clarke, a professional nurse, was appointed to the charge of the hospital under the medical officer in charge of the civil hospital. Mrs. Clarke did most excellent work and I can safely say that the work of this institution, which I visited many days in each week in Aurangabad, was thoroughly satisfactory. It and the Orphanage in the same building were the brightest spots in the famine arrangements. I should have liked to have had similar hospitals in every district, but there were no nurses to be procured and it was impracticable.

In the Aurangabad hospital there were altogether 131 admissions, of whom 125 were discharged after delivery, three before delivery and three died. The number of children born was 125.

173. In the same building I instituted an Orphanage in which there have been altogether 403 admissions, of whom 19 were handed over to guardians, 92 died and 11 ran away. The number remaining on the 15th December was 281. The Aurangabad Orphanage has been a model institution and is most creditable to Mrs. Clarke who has managed it. This can be seen from the photographs of the Orphanage contained in the famine album. Attention is particularly invited to the photograph showing on the one hand the recent arrivals, whose condition of emaciation is pitiable, and on the other hand a group of children who had been some time in the Orphanage, and had been fed up to a normal, or what might be even thought to be an abnormal, state of fatness.

There has been a large number of deaths in the hospital mainly from dysentery, the percentage amounting to as much as 22·6 of the admissions. The large mortality has been a source of great anxiety and everything possible was done to check it. The medical officer's treatment was pronounced sound by Dr. Mazhar Husain, who has himself the reputation of being a clever doctor, and Mrs. Clarke was most careful in her nursing, while I supplied her with everything she required. Still, notwithstanding all efforts, the children died in large numbers. They were in fact brought to the Orphanage too late, and many never recovered from their state of emaciation.

174. In other districts the orphans were also looked after by the Talukdars and several of the photographs taken show them as robust. This is especially the case in the town of Bir. At Nander I was very pleased with the state of the orphans, the credit of which is due to the tehsildar, Moulvi Syed Noorulla Hussaini, who was in direct charge of them.

The Jalna and Parbhani orphans were brought into Aurangabad. They were more or less emaciated and required very careful treatment after arrival.

Altogether we had 837 orphans, of whom 130 have been handed over to parents and guardians, 138 died, 29 ran away and 540 remained in hand on the 15th December. Considering the extent of the distress, this number is less than it should have been, indicating neglect by district and taluka officers. A large number of orphans has however, I believe, been taken by missionaries, but I am unable to give the actual figures. A good number of these was taken from Jalna to the orphanage connected with the R. C. Mission at Amraoti in Berar. On another occasion we intercepted 65 children being taken to Nagpur some of whom were not orphans at all, but had parents in Jalna. Until the famine is over it is impossible in many cases to distinguish between orphans and waifs and strays. Many of the latter are likely to be claimed when the famine is over and until this time arrives, it is a hardship to send the children far from their homes where they cannot be identified. My instructions were that orphans were at first to be kept near tehsils, or if possible, within about 50 miles of their homes, so that if the parents or relatives were alive they might have a chance of claiming them. It was not possible to adhere always to this rule, but at any rate Aurangabad, Nander and Naldurg are centres from which orphans can be identified.

I hope the Aurangabad orphanage will continue to be a success as it has been up to this time. The children are really happy and well cared for. Some of them have found employment in the mills and others can soon be drafted off to employments of different kinds. But the younger infants will be a charge for some years, and in addition to the Warangal orphanage, which is an old institution, it will be necessary to maintain the Aurangabad orphanage.

#### **F.—LOANS TO AGRICULTURISTS.**

175. A grant of Rs. 15,00,000 was sanctioned for *takavi* advances, of which I allotted during the year Rs. 13,25,000. Out of the allotments a sum of Rs. 96,384 was allowed to lapse, and the actual amount distributed is Rs. 12,28,616

176. Of this sum Rs. 20,000 were given in the Naldurg district to 136 persons for sinking and improving wells, and the rest of the money has been given to 36,475 persons for the purchase of bullocks and seed. The average to each person is a fraction over Rs. 33. Returns were called for to show how many bullocks were purchased with the advances, but they have not been received. There is little doubt that some of the money was used for paying the land assessment and also for the maintenance of the recipients and their families. It was practically impossible to check this, nor was it altogether desirable to do so, for a cultivator, who required to buy bullocks, required also in many instances funds to keep him going until the next harvest.

177. At any rate, however this may be, the *takavi* advances were much appreciated. There have been a good many rumours that the whole of the advances did not reach the cultivators, blackmail being levied by the village officers as well as by tehsil officials. In the Naldurg district the Talukdar has taken up a complaint in which it is said that 25 per cent of the sums advanced were paid in this way. The case is still under enquiry and the truth has not yet been ascertained, nor is it likely to be, when so

much delay is allowed to take place. Some tehsildars that I know of, and no doubt there were others, were most careful in preventing blackmailing in the tehsils.

178. The following statement shows the advances given in each tehsil.

Statistics of advances

District.	Taluka.	Grant.	Number of persons to whom <i>takavi</i> was given.	Amount.	District.	Taluka.	Grant.	Number of persons to whom <i>takavi</i> was given.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
Aurangabad.	Ambar ...	5,00,000	1,170	49,357	Nander.	Bhysa ...	70,000	15	1,140
	Aurangabad ...		3,041	1,27,000		Hadgaon ...		308	17,500
	Bhokardan ...		1,781	47,908		Nander ...		712	34,997
	Gangapur ...		1,175	57,977		Kandahar ...		170	5,165
	Jalna ...		1,015	49,812		Usman Nagar ...		267	8,000
	Kannar ...		596	31,709		Total ...		1,472	67,102
	Pattan ...		2,602	69,678	Gulbargah.	Chincholi ...	25,000	50	1,438
	Vijapur ...		1,374	52,867		Mahagaon ...		1,432	23,693
	Total ...		12,757	4,86,308		Total ...		1,482	25,131
Bir.	Amba ...	2,00,000	680	18,714	Naldurg.	Dharaseo ...	2,30,000	912	24,839
	Ashti ...		1,678	27,060		Kallam ...		826	16,084
	Bir ...		1,339	30,000		Naldurg ...		537	10,000
	Georai ...		933	24,819		Ousa ...		1,917	65,155
	Kej ...		646	19,216		Parendah ...		716	25,000
	Manjalgaon ...		213	10,538		Tuljapur ...		1,062	40,000
	Patoda ...		1,503	23,215		Wasi ...		923	23,821
	Total ...		6,992	1,53,472		Total ...		6,893	2,04,899
Parbhani.	Basmat ...	2,60,000	1,585	46,010	Bidar.	Nilanga ...	20,000	143	6,996
	Hingoli ...		1,110	35,667		Rajura ...		210	7,000
	Jintur ...		1,683	74,992		Udgir ...		244	3,000
	Kalamnuri ...		1,068	45,000	Naldurg.	Total ...		597	16,996
	Parbhani ...		650	36,854		<i>Takavi for wells.</i>			
	Pathri ...		43	3,685		Ousa ...	20,000	78	12,150
	Shishtti (Jagir) ...		143	12,500		Kallam ...		58	7,850
	Total ...		6,282	2,54,708		Total ...		136	20,000
						Grand total. 13,25,000		36,611	12,28,616

The Aurangabad district stands far ahead of the others having distributed Rs. 4,86,308, of which alone Rs. 1,27,000 were given in the Aurangabad tehsil. This was because I was at Aurangabad myself and saw that funds were supplied and applications promptly disposed of. The other districts should have given more than they did. There ought not to have been the lapse of a single rupee and I was quite prepared to ask for more money. Still the assistance given has been substantial and much more than has ever been given on any previous occasion.

179. The interest payable on advances is 6 per cent and the amount is repayable in two annual instalments, but in the parts where the crops have failed again this year the period for repayment will certainly have to be extended.

Terms of repayment

#### G.—FAMINE ALLOWANCES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.

180. All public servants drawing Rs. 12 and under were given compensation, of one rupee per mensem, for dearness of grain. The expenditure under this head is charged to each department and does not appear in the famine accounts, as it did on the last occasion.

Grain dearness compensation allowance.

181. No compensation or advances were given to village servants as such, although some of them may have procured advances as private individuals. One officer refused *takavi* advances to village patels on the ground that they were Government servants, but I corrected this as soon as it was brought to my notice and directed that they should be given advances on the same conditions as others. As a matter of fact patels of some small villages were in a most unhappy state. They were unable to leave their villages because of the duties they had to perform and yet had barely enough to live upon. They would gladly have gone to relief works if they dared leave their posts.

Village servants and patels.

#### H.—WATER SUPPLY.

182. The water supply was everywhere more or less short during the famine and in certain parts there was an absolute water famine, whole villages being deserted in consequence. The want of water was very distressing for the cattle, and was probably the cause of much of the sickness among the people. It was pitiable in many instances to see the distance people had to fetch water, and how patient they were throughout all. It was no uncommon sight to see a large column of people wearily, but yet patiently, going two or three miles each to bring back a single pot of water.

Deficiency of water supply.

183. The Mahratwara districts do not lend themselves to irrigation, nor in ordinary years is irrigation much appreciated except for garden plots. There are many places where storage tanks could be constructed, but I could do next to nothing in this direction during the famine, as no schemes or plans were complete, and I had no one who could be spared to find out suitable sites and to prepare the plans and estimates.

Irrigation unsuited to Mahratwara.

184. The improvement of the water supply in villages was undertaken by the Talukdars with local fund money. The famine year was essentially a time in which local funds should have been liberally expended. The Talukdars and Subadars are vested with extensive powers in the local fund department, and in special cases it was only necessary for them to refer to me. Still, notwithstanding the urgency of village works, I find from their returns that out of a budget grant for all districts of Rs. 5,55,853 provided for roads and works of general utility, the expenditure was only Rs. 1,30,156, representing 23·2 per cent of the total grant.

Reports on local fund works have still to be received and until I am in possession of them I do not wish to criticise the expenditure, but it will be difficult for some Talukdars to prove that it was sufficient.

185. In the famine districts alone, where so much was required, the expenditure on works amounted only to Rs. 94,190, out of a grant of Rs. 2,81,563, equal to 33·4 per cent. The details of these figures by districts are given below.

FAMINE DISTRICTS.	GRANTS FOR WORKS.			Expenditure.	Percentage of expenditure on grant.
	Road cess.	Allotments for general improvements and reserve.	Total.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Aurangabad ... ..	45,335	38,871	84,206	19,402	23·0
Bir ... ..	22,668	17,780	40,448	15,849	39·1
Parbhani ... ..	15,414	28,844	44,258	4,133	9·3
Nander ... ..	29,529	30,181	59,610	21,175	35·5
Naldurg ... ..	7,073	7,342	14,415	4,317	29·9
Gulbargah .. ..	6,800	14,893	21,693	20,053	92·4
Bidar .. ..	9,068	7,865	16,933	9,261	54·6
Total ..	1,35,887	1,45,676	2,81,563	94,190	33·4

Of the total expenditure in the famine districts Rs. 71,337 were expended on wells. It was noticeable in some parts that there was a distinct prejudice against cleaning or deepening wells, the people holding that the little water they had would be drained away. This certainly happened in some places, but if the wells had been sunk deeper a larger spring would probably have been tapped.

#### I.—PUBLIC WORKS.

186. Although there was no complete famine programme ready beforehand, there was a certain number of ordinary works proposed for the districts in which famine appeared, some of which had been partially surveyed. The question, for instance, of railway feeder roads had been long under discussion. For several years past, the Railway company had been pressing for these roads, and had even gone the length of considering at one time whether some special capital could not be raised by the company for their construction. Nothing came of this idea, but in 1898 a committee under the presidency of His Excellency the Minister approved of a scheme, which the Chief Engineer and myself had prepared, for constructing a number of such roads, and

a special survey establishment was sanctioned for the purpose with effect from 1309 Fasli (October 1899). The members of this establishment had been nominated, but not actually appointed, when the famine was declared and I at once adopted this programme as one of the first to be taken in hand for famine relief.

A branch line of railway from the Purna station to Hingoli, and from thence to the Berar frontier, was in course of being surveyed by His Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Company, and here also I found an opportunity for employing famine labour.

The Resident had also formulated a scheme for constructing a light railway from Khamgaon in Berar to Jalna. A party was deputed by the Government of India to survey this line, and as soon as the plans and sections were furnished, work was commenced on 13 miles in the Aurangabad district, *i.e.*, from Jalna to the Berar frontier.

As a continuation of this line, or even as an independent feeder to the Godavari valley section of the Nizam's railway, I obtained sanction to commence work on a road from Jalna to Bir (64 miles) which was to be constructed so that it might hereafter, if necessary, be utilized for a light railway.

In the Parbhani district, two railway feeder roads were started, *viz.*, Jintur to Sailu and from Koalla to Pathri.

In the Nander district, a feeder road was started from Nander to Usman Nagar and another from Hadgaon to Nander. There was also a small relief camp employed in constructing a road from Mudhol to Bhysa.

In the Naldurg district, there were no new railway feeder roads to construct, but the existing roads leading to Sholapur and Barsi on the G.I.P. Railway were in a most unsuitable state for the heavy traffic that passes along them. Relief camps were therefore established along these roads mainly for the purpose of breaking metal, but also, in many parts the formation of the roads was improved.

In the Bidar district, some useful work was done in constructing the ghaut road between Udgir and Rajura, on which there is heavy traffic.

187. The following statement shows the road works started in each district:—

District.	Description of work.	Miles.	District.	Description of work.	Miles.
Aurangabad.	Ajanta road ...	24	Bir	Bir Jalna road ...	26½
"	Pattan Aurangabad road	35	Parbhani.	Hingoli railway ...	49
"	Toka Aurangabad road	27	"	Jintur Sailu road ...	17
"	Gangapur Lassura road	17	"	Koalla Manwat road ...	6
"	Lassura Boregaon road	15	"	Parbhani town roads ...	3
"	Vijapur station road	3	Nander.	Nander Usman Nagar road	13
"	Jalna town road	2	"	Hadgaon Nander road...	40
"	Khamgaon Jalna Light Railway.	15½	"	Bhysa Mudhol road ...	11
"	Jalna Bir road ..	37½	Naldurg.	Latur Yedsi road ...	35
"	Bir Amba road ...	42	"	Dharaseo Sholapur road	30
Bir	Parli Amba road ..	15	"	Parendah Barsi road ...	14½
"	Bir Southara road ...	33	"	Mominabad road ...	21
"	Bir Ashti road ...	20	"	Latur Ousa road ...	12
"	Bir Manjalgaon Sailu road	42	Bidar.	Rajura Bidar road ...	30
"	Jambher Ahmed Nagar road		"	Bidar Nander road (to Janwada only)	7
"	(old road)	25			

• In addition to the above roads there was metal breaking on the Gulbargah Hominabad road and a large quantity of metal was collected at Aurangabad for the town roads.

188. The tank works carried out during the year were as follows:—

Tanks undertaken.					
District.	Description of work	Expenditure	District	Description of work	Expenditure
		Rs.			Rs.
Aurangabad	Delhi gate tank, Aurangabad, deepened	6,940	Bir	Surang tank repaired	9,092
"	Jalna tank deepened	16,956	"	Barguzar channel repaired	9,306
"	Khaksar tank deepened and repaired	18,012	Naldurg	Ramdarah tank construction	71,063
"	Abbas dara tank repaired	3,138	"	Parendah kunta deepened and widened	5,084
Bir	Shah-in-shah tank repaired	2,190	Bidar	Udgu tank deepened and repaired	10,725

189. In order to carry out these works, and the two railways already referred to, it was necessary to largely increase the P. W. establishment. The General branch of the P. W. D. had been largely depleted of officers in order to form a separate Irrigation branch for the Telingana districts, and was quite unable to meet the demand made upon it. In the higher branches of the department, the appointment of the Inspecting engineers had been brought under reduction and there was no one but the officiating Chief Engineer, who had other duties to perform, to undertake the supervision of the famine works. The Irrigation department required all its own men, as the tank works were largely increased in the Telingana districts.

P. W. establishment for famine.

Under these circumstances Government approved of my proposal to form two separate famine divisions. The Aurangabad *subah* comprising the four districts of Aurangabad, Bir, Parbhani and Nander was formed into a superintending engineer's charge, and the services of Mr. A. E. Kindersley, who had been employed on the construction of the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway as a district engineer, were secured for the post of Superintending Engineer. Moulvi Safdar Hussain, district engineer of the Gulbargah district, was appointed Inspecting Engineer and placed in charge of the famine works in the districts of Naldurg, Gulbargah and Bidar.

For the special works of the Hingoli railway, the Bir Jalna road and the Khamgaon Jalna light railway, I obtained the services of Messrs Nixon, Croley, Jones and Gregory, the former being a retired P. W. D. officer, and the others having been employed as assistant engineers in the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway construction. The other appointments of district engineers were filled up from the P. W. D. (General branch.) In the superior grades there were in all 20 officers, of whom 13 had permanent appointments in the P. W. D., and 7 were engaged temporarily. In the subordinate grades, *i.e.*, from supervisors to maistries, there were 186 persons, of whom 54 were permanent hands and 132 were engaged temporarily. Very great difficulty was experienced in securing subordinates. The number appointed was insufficient and many of the men were of inferior qualifications, but no better could be got and I was obliged to put up with them. Some of the permanent hands were very inferior.

The district engineers, in charge of districts, carried on their ordinary duties in addition to famine work, but as the expenditure on ordinary works was

trifling, this, except perhaps in Aurangabad, amounted to very little. In famine matters all officers were directly under the orders of the Famine Commissioner.

The following is an account of the works undertaken in each district.

*Aurangabad district.*

190. Excluding the figures for the first section of the Jalna Bir road (37½ miles) and for the Khamgaon Jalna light railway, both of which works were under other officers, there were altogether 14 relief works in the Aurangabad district. The highest daily attendance was on the 11th June, when it amounted to

Workers	...	..	62,887
Dependants	...		44,647
		Total	107,534

There was an average of 146 workers to 100 dependants, of 144 adults to 100 children, and of 100 working men to every 188 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 15,396,579, and the cost per 1,000 persons was H. S. Rs. 84-5, or British Rs. 63.

The total expenditure on the works was Rs. 12,97,925 and it is estimated that the value of work done at ordinary P. W. D. rates is Rs. 6,46,141, or 50 per cent of the total expenditure.

The different heads of expenditure were as follows.—

	Rs.
Payments to workers	7,14,237
„ to dependants	3,23,087
Permanent staff allowances	5,956
Temporary establishment	48,357
Doles to persons returning to their villages	9,396
Cost of hutting	20,225
Paid to contractors for stone, etc.	1,30,284
Provision for sick and burial expenses	1,477
Miscellaneous	8,551
Contingencies	1,518
General (miscellaneous not debited to special works)	34,166
Total	13,27,284
Deduct refunds	29,359
Balance	12,97,925

Taking payments to workers and stone contractors only the cost of the work is Rs. 8,74,521, on which the value at P. W. D. ordinary rates is 76·1 per cent.

191. The first work opened in the Aurangabad district was the Delhi gate tank in Aurangabad, on which work was commenced on the 14th November. It was a small work started mainly as a test work and the attendance was not allowed to rise higher than 1,159, the excess persons being drafted to an adjoining camp on the Ajanta road.

The capacity of the Delhi gate tank has been increased by 830,802 c. ft., or 5,192,512 gallons, at an expenditure of Rs. 6,940. According to ordinary rates this work is valued at Rs. 6,646 so that the cost of the famine work is within 5 per cent of the normal cost.

192. The total length of the road from Ajanta to Aurangabad is 62 miles, but the portion taken in hand as a relief work is  $24\frac{1}{2}$  miles.  
Ajanta road  
In this section, the following work has been done.

Earthwork and formation is complete for  $24\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Moorum has been collected for the full length of  $24\frac{1}{2}$  miles and spread over 17 miles, and parts of 6 miles have to be done.

2,116,295 c. ft. of metal have been collected (on the road sides and quarries) which is sufficient to metal 66 miles of road with a layer 6 inches thick and 12 feet wide. The quantity required for the  $24\frac{1}{2}$  miles is 776,160 c. ft. There will be enough metal left for repairs to the road in the next 10 years. The highest daily attendance in this camp was 20,098. The total expenditure, including payments to dependants, cost of hutting and all other charges, is Rs. 2,37,000. The value of the work at ordinary rates is Rs. 1,94,562, or 82 per cent of the actual cost.

Taking only payments to workers and contractors the value of work done exceeds the actual cost, being equal to 115 per cent. This is the only camp in which such results have been obtained, but presuming the measurements to be correct, for which the district engineer is responsible, it is not creditable to the supervisor in charge, because there were a good many complaints from his camp and it was found that he had paid workers by results only, regardless of the rules for a minimum wage.

193. What is called the Aurangabad town road is merely breaking metal at quarries for the town roads. The camp was opened on the 14th March in order to afford relief to persons who had come into Aurangabad city in search of work. It was also largely attended by persons from the cantonment. The cost of the work was Rs. 30,540 while the value of work done calculated at ordinary rates is Rs. 16,990, or 56 per cent of the total cost. The amount actually paid to workers and contractors for stone was Rs. 21,458, and if these figures be taken, the excess cost by famine labour is 26.3 per cent.

194. The length of the road from Pattan to Aurangabad is 35 miles. Pattan is an ancient sacred Brahman town on the banks of the Godavari river. The British frontier is 3 miles from Pattan and the road here joins the road to Ahmed Nagar which is about 54 miles from Pattan. Three camps were established on this road.  
Pattan road.

The earthwork and formation for 24 miles have been completed. Moorum has been collected and spread on 17 miles. Moorum for the other 6 miles has been collected, but has to be spread. Metal has been collected at the road side and quarries sufficient for  $33\frac{1}{2}$  miles of road, and stone has been collected at the road side which when broken into metal will be sufficient for 24 miles.

The total cost has been Rs. 3,93,649, as follows:—

	Rs
Paid to workers ... ..	2,36,608
Paid to dependants ... ..	1,03,459
Permanent staff allowances ... ..	2,202
Temporary establishment . ... ..	15,442
Doles to persons returning to their villages ... ..	3,480
Cost of hutting . ... ..	6,360
Paid to contractors for stone ... ..	38,870
Provision for sick and burial expenses ... ..	77
Miscellaneous and contingencies .. ...	1,112
Total ...	4,10,650
Deduct amount refunded .. ...	17,001
Balance ...	3,93,649

The value of work done calculated at ordinary rates is Rs. 1,96,040, or about 50 per cent of the total cost and 72 per cent on the payments to workers and contractors for materials supplied.

The district engineer attributes the rather unfavourable results to the people that came to work later in the season being in a very weak state of health; besides this great numbers had to be fed up before they were put on work. Tools were also deficient on the third section at the commencement of the work. Owing to cholera several gangs had to be isolated and kept on a minimum wage for several weeks. The work was opened on the 22nd February and closed on the 5th October. The highest attendance was reached on the 2nd June when it was to 35,137.

195. The Toka road is a metalled road from Aurangabad to Toka on the banks of the river Godavari adjoining the Ahmed Nagar district of the Bombay Presidency.

Toka road

The camp was opened first at Jangaon, two miles from Toka, and afterwards when the numbers increased it was transferred to Dhygaon 13 miles from Toka.

The Jangaon camp was opened on the 14th November and closed on the 13th April, but work on the Dhygaon camp which was started on the 17th December, continued to the 3rd June, when the people were removed to the Gangapur Lassura road. The highest daily attendance on the two sections was 32,626. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,77,995, while the value of work turned out at ordinary rates is Rs. 41,525, or 23 per cent of the total cost. Calculated on the amount paid to workers and contractors for materials the value of the work on cost is 32.6 per cent.

The district engineer explains that there was considerable difficulty in "obtaining sufficient quantity of stone for the coolies, also cholera has played "much havoc in this camp. For a time the whole camp was disorganised and "no work could be done." A sum of Rs. 14,062 was paid in minimum wages on account of want of tools and Rs. 3,562 in shifting the camp.

196. The Gangapur Lassura road, 16 miles in length, is a railway feeder from the tehsil town of Gangapur to the Lassura railway station. The camp was opened on the 11th March and closed on the 3rd October. The highest attendance on any one day on both sections was 32,089.

The earthwork and formation have been completed for the full length. Moorum has been collected and spread over the whole length and partly consolidated by tamping and rolling. Traffic is now passing over the road.

Metal has been collected sufficient for the whole road, with a surplus of 236,117 c. ft., and 50,880 c. ft. of stone are in stock at the quarry for metal.

The total expenditure has been Rs. 2,65,052, and the value of work done at P. W. D. rates is Rs. 1,19,032, which is equal to 45 per cent of the outlay.

Calculated on the amount paid to workers and contractors only (Rs. 1,85,708) the value of the work represents 59.8 per cent.

197. The Lassura Boregaon road is meant to be a railway feeder on the north of the new railway from Lassura to Kannar, a tehsil town in the Aurangabad district, the distance being about 25 miles.

The camp was opened late in the season, *viz.*, 6th June, when the work on the Lassura Gangapur road was nearing completion. It was intended to make the first section up to Boregaon, a distance of 15 miles. The highest attendance rose to 14,769. The camp was closed on the 2nd October.

The earthwork and formation are completed for 6 miles and the 9th mile is nearly completed. Moorum has been collected and spread on 7 miles. No metal has been collected.

The total cost has been Rs. 80,364. The value of work done at ordinary rates is Rs. 14,841, or 18 per cent of the total expenditure. Calculated on the payments to workers (Rs. 49,591) the value of the work done is equal to 30 per cent.

The working of this camp was most unsatisfactory and Mr. Davis, the supervisor in charge, closed it too suddenly. The rains had however set in and cholera also interfered with the work.

The accounts show that the relief given on rainy days was Rs. 24,718, and to persons prevented from working on account of cholera, Rs. 10,663.

198. The Vijapur road is a short railway feeder from the town to the station of Vijapur. The camp was opened on the 10th July, and closed on the 5th October. The highest attendance was 2,164. The earthwork and moorum spreading are complete for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles. There is a small length of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, near the railway station that requires to be completed. The total cost has been Rs. 11,361, and the value of the work according to ordinary rates is Rs. 7,309, or 64 per cent of the total expenditure. Calculating on payments to workers and contractors only (Rs. 7,653), the percentage is 95.

199. The Jalna town road is merely a length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, connecting the town with the new railway station. The road has been completely finished with moorum and a layer of metal. Two culverts have also been constructed. The cost has been Rs. 10,926, and the value of work done is Rs. 9,651, or 88 per cent. The highest attendance was 1,889 on the 26th January.

Jalna town road

200. The work of deepening the Jalna tank was commenced on the 27th November and completed by the 25th January, when the people were moved on to the Bir road.

Jalna tank.

The highest daily attendance was 6,101. The capacity of the tank has been increased by over 103 millions of gallons. The total cost amounted to Rs. 16,956. The value of the work at ordinary rates is Rs. 13,240, or 78 per cent of the cost. Taking the payments to workers only (Rs. 13,158), the work has practically been executed at ordinary rates.

201. The Khamgaon Jalna light railway was started on the 10th March under Pooran Singh, supervisor, whose services had been obtained from the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway. As Mr. Kindersley had his head-quarters at Jalna, he looked more specially after this work himself.

Khamgaon Jalna light railway.

The highest daily attendance was 14,258 on the 23rd April. The expenditure has been—

					Rs.
Payments to workers	...	...	...	...	1,14,520
„ dependants	.	...	...	...	13,070
Temporary establishment	...	...	...	...	8,653
Doles to coolies returning to their villages	...	...	...	...	565
Miscellaneous and materials	...	..	...	...	11,834
Total ..					<u>1,48,642</u>

The estimated value of the work done, based on average local rates, is as follows :—

					Br. Rs.
Earthwork, including main line, side drains, diversion, &c.					68,407
Ballast	...	...	.	...	9,309
Supervision	...	...	...	...	14,400
Total ...					<u>92,116</u>

The estimated value (Br. Rs. 92,116 or H. S. Rs. 1,15,145) is thus 77·4 per cent of the actual cost. Taking only payments to workers and contractors for stone, the percentage is 95·02.

Besides the above expenditure, a sum of Br. Rs. 10,288 was paid on account of expenses for surveying and laying out the portion of the light railway lying within His Highness' territory, incurred by the Government of India survey party.

The work done lies between miles 3 and  $15\frac{1}{2}$ , and the whole of this is completed with the exception of some comparatively small quantities of cutting. Miles 0-3 are untouched.

More work was done than the estimated quantity on the line, and the Superintending Engineer accounts for this as follows:—

“The difference between the estimated quantities and the work actually done in main line is chiefly accounted for by the very rough nature of parts of the line, and also partly that the formation width was made 12 feet instead of 11 feet wide on banks; though as the width of the toe of the bank was not similarly increased, the increase on this account is very small and is a little over 2 per cent in a bank of 6 feet high.”

202. The Jalna Bir road is in two sections. In the Aurangabad district there are  $37\frac{1}{2}$  miles up to the Godavari river on which there were three camps. The first camp was opened on the 23rd January and closed on the 7th May. The highest daily attendance was 14,746 on the 24th February. The second camp was opened on the 19th March and closed on the 26th September. The highest daily attendance on the 12th June was 12,415. The third camp was opened on the 27th May and closed on the 10th September. The highest daily attendance was 1,206 on the 29th August.

Jalna Bir road.

The total cost of the work done in the Aurangabad district is Rs. 3,27,107 and its value at ordinary rates is Rs. 2,29,465 or 70·15 per cent of the total expenditure. Taking only payments to workers and contractors for stone, the cost is almost equal to the P. W. valuation. An idea of the work done may be gathered from the following figures:—

				Quantity.	Amount.
				C. ft.	Rs.
Earthwork	...	...		30,008,136	1,78,516
Metal breaking	...	...	...	397,484	19,602
Rubble stone collected	...	...	...	936,301	31,030
Lock spitting	...	..	..	...	287
Total				...	2,29,465

A sum of Rs. 1,85,501 has still to be expended on the completion of this section of the road which can then be used as an ordinary first class road, or as a railway road.

203. The other small works in the Aurangabad district do not require special notice. They included the Khaksar tank repairs which was started to give relief to persons in Roza, near the caves of Ellora. For the same reason some work was done to the Abbas dara tank at Daulatabad and to a bank at the Government bungalow, Roza.

Other works

Some metal breaking was also done for the ghat road at Daulatabad. Some famine labour was furnished to the Jail authorities at Aurangabad for the construction of a new jail at Harsool. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was allotted for this purpose, but only Rs. 738 were expended.

Abstract of progress  
of roads

204. The following figures show in abstract form the progress of the work on each road and the amounts required for completion.

ROAD.	Length in miles	NUMBER OF MILES IN WHICH				Total famine expenditure.	Amount required for completion.
		Earth work has been completed	Moorum has been spread.	Metal has been collected	Metal has been rolled.		
						Rs	Rs.
Ajanta road	62	24½	24½	24½	2	2,37,600	1,27,000
Pattan road ..	35	24	23	28½	10	3,93,811	70,000
Gangapur Lassura road	16	16	16	16	6	2,65,063	46,431
Lassura Boregaon road	15	8	6			80,366	49,649
Vijapur road ..	3	2½	2½	...		11,362	9,453
Jalna town road ...	½	...	.	..	½	10,927	Completed
Jalna Bir road ...	37½	30	30	13	..	3,27,106	1,85,501
Total ...	169½	105	102	81½	18½	13,26,233	4,88,034

205. The foregoing remarks show that some useful railway feeder roads have been constructed either in full or in part—roads which were included in the general scheme for feeder roads for the new railway. If the work left unfinished by the famine department is now completed under the contract system, or as I anticipate may be necessary, as further relief works in 1901, the roads will be of real practical use for the traffic converging on to the new railway.

Mr. Cornelius who has so far constructed the roads should be employed in completing them all, and I hope he will not be transferred from the Aurangabad district until at least this work is done, and proper arrangements made for the maintenance of the roads.

#### *Bir district.*

206. In the Bir district there were 24 camps, and the highest daily attendance was on the 19th June, when it was 73,442, composed of—

Workers	...	...	...	...	...	45,718
Dependants	...	...	..	...	...	27,724

There was an average of 183 workers to 100 dependants, of 155 adults to 100 children and of 100 working men to 205 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 9,426,009 and the cost per 1,000 persons was H. S. Rs. 107-11, or British Rs. 86-2.

The district engineer was in charge of all the relief works in this district, with the exception of that part of the Jalna Bir road, 26½ miles in length, which lies in the Bir district, and which was constructed under separate agency.

The total expenditure, including that on the Jalna Bir road, was Rs. 10,15,102, classified as follows:—

							Rs.
Payments to workers	...	...	...	...	...	..	7,02,345
Dependants	...	..	...	..	...	...	2,28,681
Temporary establishment	..	...	...	...	...	...	37,815

	Rs.
Doles to persons returning to their villages	2,230
Provision for sick and burial charges . . . . .	220
Paid to contractors for stone, etc . . . . .	41,586
Hutting . . . . .	11,197
Contingencies . . . . .	11,266
Total . .	10,35,340
Deduct refunds ...	20,238
Balance .	10,15,102

It is estimated that the value of the work done by the district engineer at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 2,72,184, or 38·78 per cent of the total expenditure. These latter figures exclude work done on the Jalna Bir road, the value of which at ordinary rates has not been reported.

207. At one time there was an apprehension of the works in this district collapsing altogether for want of funds. In reference to this the Talukdar writes—"In the month of Khurdad 1309 Fasli (April 1900), at a time when sanction of Government for famine expenditure had not been received, I had spent nearly a lakh of rupees on these works, on my own responsibility. But even after this, as no sanction was received, I ordered stoppage of payments on all camps in this district. Though this order did not direct that works should be closed, but you can realise in what distressed condition the labourers were. When wages were not paid for a week in the vicinity of Amba, the people went to the Officer commanding the station at Mominabad with their complaints, and as the larger portion of the complainants belonged to Amba and the cantonment, the Officer commanding brought the matter to your notice, and you deputed Mr. Habibuddeen, Inspecting relief officer, for enquiry. It is a matter for congratulation that no irregularity was observed except in connection with a few *mukadams* and maistries and the complaints of the coolies were proved to be false, because every arrangement was made to supply them with grain, and after formal sanction was received their wages were distributed."

208. The total length of this road from Bir *via* Kej to Amba Jogai, adjoining which is the Mominabad cantonment, is 54 miles. The first 11 miles are common to the Bir Barsi and Bir Amba roads, the road to Amba branching off at Majar Samba.

The formation of the road has been completed for 25 miles, and moorum and metal have been collected in sufficient quantities. Of this, 10 miles have been partially rolled. There were four camps on this road as under:—

Camp	Started on.	Closed on	Highest attendance Date	Number
I. ...	23rd Feb.	1st Oct.	30th May	2,451
II. ...	9th April	29th Sept.	24th July	3,154
III. ...	27th Mar.	6th Oct.	23rd June	5,782
IV. ...	6th Mar.	29th Sept.	2nd June	2,760

The total expenditure was Rs. 1,23,879, which is valued at ordinary rates at Rs. 50,842, or 41·04 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors for stone supplied, the percentage is 68·09.

The Talukdar of Bir accounts for the short out-turn of work on this road by saying that the subordinates in charge of the camps were temporary men not fully acquainted with their profession, and consequently not able to supervise the organization of large camps.

209. This road, 15 miles in length, connects Amba with Parli, an important commercial centre, and passes through the Parli Pipra ghat. The old cart track passed over a steep ghat and several perennial streams, in consequence of which considerable inconvenience was experienced in carrying the products of the Parli ginning factories to Amba.

Amba Parli road

A new alignment over a level plateau was adopted, which passed over fewer streams and a less steep ghat. The work has been completed and rolled throughout, and is now open for traffic.

The work was temporarily suspended for about 10 days on account of a severe outbreak of cholera, during which the people left the camp.

The work was started on the 15th January and closed on the 30th September. The highest attendance (8,398) was reached on the 1st August.

The total expenditure was Rs. 86,068 and the P. W. valuation is Rs. 48,049, or 55.82 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors, the percentage of valuation to cost is 72.76.

210. This road extends for 37 miles from Bir *via* Patoda to Southara, on the frontier of the Jamkher taluka of the Ahmed Nagar district, and is one of two roads leading from Bir to Ashti.

Bir Southara road.

There were two camps on this road, the first being located on the first section from Bir to the Rohatwadi ghat, 15 miles in length. This camp was opened on the 9th February and closed on the 13th October. The highest attendance was 2,545 on the 24th April. The other camp, on the section from Rohatwadi to Southara, was opened on the 26th February and closed on the 30th September. The highest attendance 3,650 was reached on the 29th April.

The length of road actually undertaken during the famine was 30 miles. There are two ghats on which cutting was done, namely, Patti and Rohatwadi. Regarding the latter, the Talukdar writes that before the work was started, he happened to pass that way and had to get out of his tonga at Rohatwadi, a village situated at the mouth of the ghat, and walk down the ghat for nearly a mile. On account of these steep gradients, traffic was almost nil on this road. The road from Chiratta has been excellently constructed and moorum has been spread. Ghat cutting at Patti has also been a success. Two carts can easily pass abreast on this road. On the second section, the road has been taken over the Rohatwadi ghat at easy gradients and moorum has been spread up to Southara. The road is now quite passable for traffic. If rolling is done during the next monsoon it will become an excellent road.

The total expenditure was Rs. 64,076 and the P. W. valuation is Rs. 41,102, or 64.14 per cent. Taking payments to workers and contractors for stone, the percentage is 82.89.

211. The length of this road in His Highness' territory is 18 miles, of which about 16 miles were undertaken during the famine. The first section, comprising 15 miles, was opened on the 3rd March and closed on the 30th September, the highest attendance of 5,068 having been reached on the 7th June.

Bir Ashti road

About 6 miles of this section have been completed with metal and moorum, and on the remaining portion, side drains have been excavated and moorum collected.

The second section of the road consisted of a mile of cutting on the Nagjiri ghat and was opened on the 15th May and closed on the 3rd September; the attendance never exceeded 703. The ghat is now readily passable for traffic.

The total expenditure was Rs. 79,587 and the P. W. valuation is Rs. 27,315, or 34·32 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors, the percentage of value to total expenditure is 68·83.

212. This road when completed will connect Bir with Sailu, a station on the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway *via* Manjalgaon. A portion of this road, about 46 miles in length, lies in the Bir district, from Bir to the village of Ganga Masla on the south bank of the Godavari. Of this portion, 28 miles were undertaken by famine labour, namely, 12 miles between Bir and Manjalgaon, and 16 miles from the Godavari side. The former camp was opened on the 22nd March and closed on the 30th September, the highest attendance of 5,027 having been reached on the 7th April. The latter camp was opened on the 28th May and closed on the 23rd October, the highest attendance being 11,606 on the 14th July.

Bir Manjalgaon Sailu road.

Details of the work done have not been reported by the district engineer, but the Talukdar in his final report observes that the work done, on the first section as inspected by him from time to time, was quite unsatisfactory. On the second section, on 10 miles from Manjalgaon to the Godavari river, and on 6 miles from Manjalgaon towards Bir, formation has been completed and it only remains to spread moorum and roll it.

The total expenditure was Rs. 1,56,535 and the P. W. value is Rs. 55,286, or 35·32 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors, the percentage of value on cost is 75·05.

213. Jamkher and Ahmed Nagar are two British towns, and the road connecting them passes through His Highness' territory for 25 miles, with the exception of about 4 miles, which lies in British territory, about 7½ miles from the Jamkher end.

Jamkher Ahmed Nagar road

There are two sections of the road, from Ashti to Jamkher and Ashti to Ahmed Nagar. A camp on the Ashti Ahmed Nagar section was opened on the 19th March, with a view to prevent emigration of His Highness' subjects to the adjoining British camps in the Ahmed Nagar district, and closed on the 16th September. The highest attendance was 7,475 on the 18th April. The camp on the other section was opened on the 21st March and closed on the 27th September. The highest attendance was 9,471 on the 18th April.

The work on this road was confined to breaking and stacking metal at the road side, the quantity thus stacked being 553,504 c. ft.

The total expenditure on both sections of the road was Rs. 1,53,035 and the P. W. value Rs. 41,000, or 26·79 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors, the percentage comes to 69·63

In April, when payments had been temporarily stopped for want of sanctioned funds, many persons left the camp, but when sanction was received subsequently, they returned, and their arrears of wages were distributed under the supervision of the sub-divisional officer.

214. A part of this road,  $26\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, from Bir to the south bank of the Godavari, passing through Georai, lies in this district.

Famine Bir road

During the scarcity of 1306 F. (1897) the road from Bir to Georai was undertaken and a sum of Rs. 40,908 expended in that year. Before this road was constituted as a separate charge during the famine, the district engineer supervised the work of metal breaking at camp Khandesari, which was started at the instance of the Superintending Engineer. The cost of this camp works out to 2 annas 6 pies per head per day, and the high cost is due to absence of system in the work. No contractor was employed to supply rubble, but women and children used to bring rubble from the Khandesari hill, a distance of between one and two miles. It however afforded relief to thousands of distressed persons.

The following camps were subsequently started on this road, coolies being transferred from one camp to another as the work at each was completed.

Camp.	Started on.	Closed on.	Highest attendance. Date.	Number.
I.	6th Mar.	6th May	15th April	8,592
II.	... 15th April	21 "	17th May	6,445
III.	... 20 "	24th Sep.	16th June	15,082
IV.	11th Aug.	3 "	11th Aug.	5,192
V.	2nd May	22 "	26th May	9,342
VI.	15th Mar.	28th May	23rd April	10,025
VII.	.. 20th May	29th "	19th June	3,214
VIII.	... 23 "	27th Aug.	17th July	2,431

Mr. Gregory, an assistant engineer of the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway, was appointed to survey the part of this road lying in the Bir district, with a view to its being adapted eventually for a light railway, and as the survey of each section was completed, the district engineer was directed to start the work on this road. This was done by the first camp being opened at Bashirganj in Bir on 27th April and the district engineer continued in charge up to the 24th May, when Mr. Gregory was put in charge of the construction.

The Talukdar reports that this work has been the best in his district. The total expenditure in the Bir district was Rs. 2,35,480, of which Rs. 31,321 were expended through the district engineer and the balance of Rs. 2,04,159 through Mr. Gregory. The expenditure on the metal breaking camps that were opened on this road, before the construction of the road was started was—

	Rs.
Khandesari ... ..	30,800
Karpura ... ..	24,897
Pendagaon ... ..	2,324
Padalsinghi ... ..	44,732

The grand total expenditure thus works out to Rs. 3,37,733.

215. Two tanks were undertaken, the first being the Shah-in-Shah tank which is a source of water-supply to the people of the town of Bir. This was the first relief work opened in the district. The work was started as a test work on the 23rd November 1899 to provide employment for the people who had flocked to Bir, and closed on the 21st February, the highest attendance on the 25th January being 482. The work, which consisted of deepening the tank and strengthening the bund, has been completed. The cost was Rs. 2,492 and the P. W. value Rs. 1,466, or 58·83 per cent.

Tank works

The Surang tank in Kej was also undertaken on the 17th February and closed on the 13th April. The highest attendance was 6,633 on the 25th March. The work consisted of raising and strengthening the bund and restoring the sluice. The earthwork has been completed but the sluice requires some more work to be done to the tunnel and the cistern. The cost was Rs. 9,043 and the P. W. value Rs. 4,556, or 50·38 per cent.

Besides the above tanks, the Barguzar channel was also cleared of silt for a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles and a new channel, or branch channels, aggregating  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles were excavated. The extension of this channel into the town of Bir was rendered impracticable owing to the abrupt fall of the country, but may hereafter be done by means of pipes. The revenue under this channel had fallen to Rs. 3,217 but after the repairs now executed it is expected to rise to Rs. 5,213. The work was started on the 2nd February and was continued to the 28th August. The highest attendance was reached on the 1st April, when it was 727. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,033; the value at ordinary rates is estimated at Rs. 2,568 or 35·09 per cent.

#### *Parbhani district*

216. There were seven relief camps in the Parbhani district, at which the highest attendance was 70,371 on the 22nd June, composed of 53,769 workers and 16,602 dependants.

Attendance and expenditure.

To an average of 100 workers there were 31 dependants, to 100 adults 46 children, and to every 100 working men 165 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 11,125,908 and the average cost per 1,000 persons per day was H. S. Rs. 103-8-11 or Br. Rs. 82-13-6.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 11,51,222, classified as under.

	Rupees.
Payments to workers ...	8,12,137
Dependants .. ...	2,07,373
Establishment ...	45,768
Doles to persons returning to their villages	3,962
Provision for sick and burial charges ..	3,005
Contractors for stone, &c. ...	13,743
Hutting ...	16,811
Contingencies ...	2,147
Miscellaneous and materials ..	46,276
Total ...	<u>11,51,222</u>

217. The largest work in the famine area was the Hingoli railway in the Parbhani district. In the month of December 1899, I was very much pressed to commence relief works in the neighbourhood of Hingoli, as people in a distressed condition were flocking into the cantonment and also crossing the Berar border. The survey of the railway line, from the Berar frontier up to the Godavari valley railway, had been previously undertaken by the Railway company, but the plans and sections were incomplete, and it was owing to this, and the difficulty of procuring officers, that the work could not be commenced earlier than the 9th January. My instructions to Mr. Kindersley, who had as a railway officer made a survey of the line, were to commence work south of Hingoli as I wished in the first place to complete the work between Hingoli and the junction of the main line, leaving the remainder up to the frontier to be done later if necessary. But owing to a delay in the receipt of the plans and sections of the southern section, Mr. Kindersley directed work to be commenced at Bassamba, a few miles north of Hingoli. The expenditure on this part amounted to Rs. 21,597. From an engineering point of view this was wasted money, as the alignment was subsequently changed and the line is now to be taken by a different route. When I visited this part of the country on the 7th February I found the Bassamba camp in the course of transfer to Bolda, 12 miles south of Hingoli. The officer in charge had not received sufficiently clear instructions from the Superintending Engineer, nor had he fully understood the provisions of the famine circulars. The transfer was being carried out gradually, as the work of the gangs was measured and paid for. Minimum wages were not recognised, and when the gangs were settled with at Bassamba, they were sent off to Bolda to commence work there, without receiving any minimum wage during the time it took them to get to Bolda. At Bassamba I found men still digging moorum for the railway bank although the alignment had been cancelled. It would have been cheaper if the coolies had been paid a daily wage from the moment the alignment was cancelled and marched bodily to the next camp. Measurements were useless under the circumstances.

When I arrived at Bolda a week later Mr Croley had by unremitting energy done wonders in getting the men settled on the new work. Large numbers were however daily flocking into the camp, and there were over 4,000 people for whom there were neither tools nor baskets. The Hingoli camp was so far from a railway, the nearest route being *via* Akola in Berar, that it took some time to supply Mr. Croley with all he required, but the people for whom there were no tools were treated for the time being as dependants, and were well looked after by Moulvi Syed Hussain, assistant superintendent of the revenue survey department, who throughout was the civil officer in this camp, with the rank of a second talukdar, and responsible for all the payments.

The first camp on this railway was as already stated started on the 9th January under Mr. Croley. It was shifted, as the work progressed, to Bolda, Amba, Sirlee and Samga and finally closed on the 31st October. The highest attendance was reached on the 13th June, when it rose to 33,745.

The second camp at Marsool was started under Mr. Jones on the 31st January and closed on the 2nd July. The attendance did not rise as in the first camp, the highest figure having been reached on the 31st May, when it was

10,975, and this was only by adding 4,000 persons sent over from Nander. The numbers shortly afterwards fell again, and as I was not satisfied with this camp I opened a third camp under Mr. Nur Muhammad, a tehsildar, specially selected and promoted as a relief officer.

This latter camp was opened in the Basmat taluka at Jowla and subsequently shifted to Kandaran. It was started on the 21st May and closed on the 26th October. When Mr. Jones, the assistant engineer in charge of the second camp, resigned the famine department on account of ill health, the coolies went to the third camp, and the highest attendance was reached on the 22nd July, when the number rose to 16,644.

All these camps were situated to the south of Hingoli. But a fourth camp was opened on the north of Hingoli under Mr. Nixon to provide work for about 4,000 coolies who were brought back from Berar. Mr. Nixon received instructions from me to start work on this part of the line, and he was provided with establishment, tools and everything that was necessary for the purpose. At first the tehsildar delayed payments, but afterwards this was put right and there was absolutely no reason for work not being started, except Mr. Nixon's own action. On the 15th July he reported to me that he had met the assistant engineer on the railway in charge of the adjoining camp on the Berar side, and said in his diary—"Assistant engineer, Rajura camp, Berar (Bassim frontier) came and gave me some statistics in reference to the work on the railway between this and Akola, from which I learn that the average for 'workers' is barely one cubic foot a day a head, so in my opinion it would be better to keep all coolies on the dependants' list, giving them two annas, one anna three pies, and one anna a day instead of  $-\frac{3}{6}$  and  $-\frac{2}{9}$  as workers, at the present rate of grain (5 seers)."

In reply it was pointed out that he was overlooking the principle on which work was to be carried on, *viz.*, payments by results with a minimum wage for those who do not work up to the standard, and that he was not justified in maintaining his large camp on a minimum wage without taking work from them. But nothing came of this, and I afterwards had all the workers removed to Mr. Croley's camp, and Captain Dalyell kept the infirm and others in a poorhouse at Kannargaon. Mr. Nixon's camp cost in all Rs. 20,114.

The whole of this was practically gratuitous relief as no work of any kind was taken from the people. The camp was useful in providing for people brought back from Berar, and Mr. Nixon saw that they were well looked after and fed, but as there was no work done, the expenditure is not included under the head of the Hingoli railway.

The total cost of relief on the Hingoli railway, including the Bassamba camp, but excluding Mr. Nixon's camp, has been Rs. 8,11,800. Taking the total attendance at 7,984,806, this represents a cost of Rs. 101-10 per 1,000 per day. In Mr. Croley's camp the cost works out to Rs. 103 and in the other camps to a little over Rs. 97 per 1,000.

The heads of the expenditure in these camps are—

						Rs.
Payments to workers...	..	...	...	...	...	4,82,470
Dependants ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,26,787
Executive establishment	...	...	...	...	...	21,569

	Rs.
Temporary establishment . . . . .	20,153
Rainy days and camp shifting . . . . .	67,566
Minimum wages to coolies arriving in the evening, &c . . . . .	19,710
Kitchens attached to camps . . . . .	39,965
Hutting . . . . .	16,811
Provision for sick and burial charges . . . . .	3,006
Doles to persons returning to their villages . . . . .	3,962
Miscellaneous and contingencies . . . . .	9,801
Total ..	8,11,800

Mr. Croley had a very large camp and he was short handed of officers and subordinates, but he himself did such splendid work, and was so ably assisted by Mr. Syed Hussain, while at the same time his tact prevented friction with the revenue officers, that he was able to manage the numbers under his care. The only breakdown was when he was moving camp at the end of the season to near Hingoli. The weather was very wet and his measurements fell into arrears, and as many of the relief workers wished to return to their villages at the time, they left without receiving the balance of pay due to them on the unmeasured work. With this exception it may be said that from the date it was established at Bolda, Mr. Croley's camp worked smoothly and well.

The out-turn of work is however disappointing. The actual work done and the probable cost of completing the earthwork on this section is shown below.

ITEMS.	WORK DONE BY FAMINE COOLIES.		AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION.	
	Quantity.	Amount at Railway rates.	Quantity.	Cost.
	C ft.	Rs	C. ft.	Rs.
Earthwork . . . . .	29,109,092	1,52,160	11,278,326	1,29,245
Ballast . . . . .	767,825	15,947	1,789,875	35,797
Total . . . . .	...	1,68,107		1,65,042

It will be seen from these figures that the value of work done, calculated at railway rates is Rs. 1,68,107, which is equal to 20·71 per cent of the total expenditure, or 34·84 per cent of the expenditure on workers only.

The percentage in Mr. Jones' camp is 43, but the attendance in his camp never rose to anything like the numbers in Mr. Croley's camp, and in the early part of the season at least, persons were refused relief, which was what led me to open a third camp under Mr. Nur Muhammad.

Mr. Croley attributes the bad out-turn to the sheer laziness of the workers who as soon as they found they were to be paid a minimum wage gave up all efforts to earn more. It is remarkable that from the 1st September, when the minimum wage was stopped, the people earned, and were paid, only 71 per cent of the minimum wage, and yet remained on in the camp. Their dependants were of course during this period paid the minimum wage.

218. This is a railway feeder road which connects Jintur, the head-quarters of the taluka, with Sailu on the new railway, a length of 21 miles. Work was commenced from both ends of the road. The camp at the Jintur end was started on the 23rd January and closed on the 20th October. The highest attendance of 10,970 was reached on the 10th March. A second camp working from Sailu was started on the 11th February and closed on the 29th September. The attendance at this camp reached its highest on the 15th April, when it was 8,944. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,73,252.

Jintur Sailu road.

The work on this road has been most unsatisfactorily done. It was in charge of an officer belonging to the railway feeder survey establishment, who has proved himself to be incompetent. There is good reason to believe that the measurements of quarried stone are false, and that overpayments have been made. Several bills passed by the officer in charge, and countersigned by the district engineer, have been stopped payment, and until the enquiry now going on is completed, it is impossible to show the value of the work done.

219. The road from Koalla, a station on the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway, to Pathri, is a railway feeder and it was proposed to start this road to afford relief to the people on the west of the railway line in the Parbhani district, where no works had been started. The road can be extended from Pathri to the banks of the Godavari where it will meet the Bir Manjalgaon Sailu road, and thus connect Bir in an almost direct line with the new railway on the east, while the Bir Jalna road will connect it with the railway on the north.

Koalla Manwat road.

The total length from Koalla to the Godavari is 16 miles, but the distance from Koalla to Manwat, 6 miles only, was undertaken and is still incomplete. The work was started on the 15th May and kept open till the 6th October. The highest attendance was 6,145 on the 6th July. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 49,002.

As in the case of the Sailu road, this work was very badly looked after and a statement showing the quantity of work done has not yet been received.

220. The town roads run from the railway station to the town of Parbhani and are  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles in length. Work was started on the 16th June and closed on the 29th September. The highest attendance was reached on the 1st July, when it was 3,672. Sufficient metal has been collected and spread and the roads are now in full use. The expenditure was Rs. 17,381.

Parbhani town roads.

#### *Nander district.*

221. There were four relief camps in the Nander district, at which the highest attendance of any day was reached on the 11th June 1900, when it was 15,119 composed of 9,557 workers and 5,562 dependants.

Attendance and expenditure

To an average of 100 dependants there were 172 workers, to 100 children 241 adults, and to 100 working men 140 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 2,089,196 and the cost per 1,000 persons was H. S. Rs. 110 or British Rs. 88.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 2,29,736 classified as under.

						Rs.
Payments to workers (including holidays and rainy days) }						1,51,999
Dependants	...	...	...	...	...	48,500
Establishment	...	...	...	...	..	6,692
Dotes to persons returning to their villages						607
Burial charges	.	...	...	.	..	507
Contractors and materials	...	.	...	.	.	16,950
Hutting	..	...	...	...	..	2,176
Contingencies	..		...		.	4,560
Total						2,31,991
Deduct refunds ...						2,255
Balance ...						2,29,736

It is estimated that the value of the work done at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 1,18,664, or 64.72 per cent of the expenditure.

222. This is a railway feeder connecting Usman Nagar (formerly called Lat) with the new railway at Nander. It is 12 miles in length. *Nander Usman Nagar road.* The whole of the earthwork has been completed and moorum has been spread in those parts only where it was available without carting.

There was only one camp on this road which was started on the 27th January 1900 and closed on the 23rd September. The highest attendance (5,973) was recorded on the 29th June, and the expenditure was Rs. 46,483. The P. W. value of the work done is Rs. 32,495, or 70 per cent.

223. This road, 40 miles in length, is a railway feeder connecting Hadgaon on the British frontier with Nander on the Hyderabad Godavari valley railway. *Hadgaon Nander road.*

The work was started at both ends, leaving 17 miles in the middle untouched. On the first section 8 miles and on the second 15 miles, or 23 miles in all, of earthwork have been completed and protected by check dams. No moorum has been stacked, but 73,682 c. ft. of rubble have been quarried and stacked at the road side, but not broken.

The first camp was started on the 23rd April and closed on the 10th October. The highest attendance, on the 4th June was 5,322 and the cost of this section Rs. 50,807. The second camp was started on the 15th May and closed on the 9th October. The highest attendance was 8,315 on the 9th August and the cost Rs. 85,370.

The total cost of this road was Rs. 1,36,177 while the value at ordinary rates is Rs. 83,664, or 61 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors for stone the cost is almost equal to the P. W. valuation.

224. This is another railway feeder which connects Bhysa with Bassar, a station on the new railway in the Indur district, *via* Mudhol. *Bhysa Mudhol road.* The total distance from Bhysa to Bassar is 17½ miles, but only a length of about 9 miles (5 miles in the Nander district and 4 miles in the Mudhol taluka of the Indur district) was undertaken during the famine. The

earthwork over this part has been completed, but cutting and dressing in parts remain.

There was only one camp on this road which was started on the 23rd March and closed on the 27th September. The highest attendance on the 3rd June was 5,072.

The total cost has been Rs. 43,335 and the P. W. valuation is Rs. 32,505, or 75 per cent. Taking only payments to workers and contractors for stone, the percentage of P. W. valuation to the actual expenditure works out to 98.

*Naldurg district.*

225. In the Naldurg district there were 19 camps. The highest daily attendance was on the 8th June, when it was 109,961, composed of 68,882 workers and 41,079 dependants.

There was an average of 168 workers to 100 dependants, of 147 adults to 100 children and of 100 working men to every 155 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 19,252,062, and the cost per 1,000 persons was H. S. Rs. 75-4-2, or British Rs. 60-3-4.

The total expenditure on the works was Rs. 14,48,951 distributed under the following heads:—

					Rs.
Paid to workers	...	...	...	...	9,79,527
„ to dependants	...	...	...	...	3,50,753
Temporary establishment including permanent staff allowances.					53,972
Doles to persons returning to their villages			...	...	3,265
Cost of hutting	...	...	...	...	18,491
Paid to contractors for stone, etc.			...	...	50,147
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	7,274
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	6,074
Total					14,69,503
Deduct amount refunded					20,552
Balance					14,48,951

It is estimated that the value of work done at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 5,32,864, or 36·77 per cent of the total expenditure.

Taking payments to workers and contractors only, the cost of the work is Rs. 10,29,674, on which the percentage of value at ordinary P. W. rates is 51·75. This percentage has not been separately shown for each work, as has been done in other districts.

226. The P. W. department in the Naldurg district was in a helpless state when the distress first broke out. In the end of December 1899, there was a most urgent call for relief works which had to be met at once, and the department was unable to supply me, on the spur of the moment, with either the necessary number of officers or tools.

*Insufficiency of P. W. establishment at commencement.*

To meet the emergency I employed a contractor Mr. Zaman Khan, as an agent, whom I sent off to the Latur Yedsi road with instructions to open a camp at once at Dhoki on that road, where employment was to be given to all who came to seek for it, and doles to the dependants.

I followed a few days later myself, and found that in the course of a week Zaman Khan had organised a camp containing over 7,000 persons. Large numbers were daily arriving, many of them in an emaciated condition. The Talukdar of the district met me at Dhoki, and with his assistance a poorhouse was immediately opened, which relieved the camp of the sick and helpless. Zaman Khan had in these few days done splendid work in organising the camp. Notwithstanding the crowds that had rushed in, he had the people divided off into gangs under *mukadams*, and the arrangements for paying them every evening partly in grain and partly in copper, were better than I subsequently found in some of the camps under departmental management. Zaman Khan had also in this short time brought in a quantity of tools, without which work could not be proceeded with. The system of using a contractor as an agent could not of course be continued. I offered to make Zaman Khan a temporary district engineer, feeling sure that a man of his energy and power of organisation would be of much value to me, but he would not accept the appointment, and before I left Dhoki I had the camp handed over to the Inspecting Engineer, who arranged for its being worked by the district engineer. Mr. Zaman Khan's tools were taken over at a valuation and his bill for actual payments to the relief workers and others, irrespective of the work done was settled. Zaman Khan is entitled to much credit for the way in which he assisted me at this crisis and I hope this will not be forgotten in the Public Works department.

227. On this road five relief camps were started, the details of which are shown below :—

Latur Yedsi road						
Camp.				Started on.	Closed on.	Highest attendance.
						Date.      Number.
I.	Dhoki	...	...	27-12-99	12-10-00	25th Mar.      14,263
II.	Murur Akola	...	...	14-1-00	5-9-00	10th June      10,130
III.	Murur	...	...	14-1-00	29-8-00	23rd Jan.      10,243
IV.	Latur	...	..	24-2-00	15-9-00	27th April      17,837
V.	Sakia	.		29-4-00	16-7-00	6th June      10,774

The highest attendance taking all the camps into consideration was 50,497 in June.

The Latur Yedsi road is an important railway feeder, connecting Latur, a large produce mart, with Barsi, the terminus of the Barsi light railway. The length of this road in His Highness' territory is 35 miles. The Barsi light railway company have constructed an extension from Barsi to the British border and when the line is actually open this road will connect it with Latur.

The road was formerly constructed of moorum, but as good moorum is not available in the vicinity, the road was never in a good condition. Earth-work, formation and digging of side drains were undertaken and the road was widened from 18 to 21 feet, and the sides raised to the required level. Moorum and metal have been collected and stacked sufficient for a metalled road 15 feet

wide and a layer of metal 9 inches deep at the centre and 6 inches at the sides. Owing to the large influx of labourers, excess metal had to be broken. In this way 719,839 c. ft. of metal in excess of actual requirements have been broken and stacked on 21 miles of the road. Moorum has also been collected in sufficient quantity for nearly the whole of the road to bind the metal and for the berms.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 6,21,111.

228. A part of the Dharaseo Sholapur road, 30 miles in length, which lies within His Highness' territory, was undertaken during the famine, and in course of time five camps were opened on it.

The road was widened from 18 to 21 feet and the level raised for several miles. Earth, moorum and formation works have been completed over 11 miles. Moorum and metal have been collected for the whole road at site, for a metalled road 15 feet wide, with a layer of metal 9 inches thick at the centre and 6 inches at the sides. As the number of labourers steadily increased, excess metal had to be broken and is stacked on several miles, amounting to 1,355,805 c. ft., which will be useful for annual maintenance.

This road passes over the Tuljapur Ghat. The old route lay through the ghat, with a gradient of one in ten, which was practically impossible for traffic. A diversion was proposed and partly carried out during the scarcity of 1897, at a cost of Rs 28,000. But the greater part of the cutting work, revetment, and masonry was left incomplete. An estimate of Rs. 21,000 for completion had been sanctioned and the sum provided in the budget, and the work was undertaken as a famine work. The camp was opened on the 23rd March and closed on the 23rd September. Cutting and raising work has nearly been completed and also the greater part of the revetment and masonry work. Some cutting, levelling and masonry work still remain.

The dates of opening and closing the several camps on this road and the highest attendance at each, are shown below :—

Camp.	Date of opening.	Date of closing.	Highest attendance.	
			Date.	Number.
I. Tuljapur ..	26 12 99	8 8 00	25th Mar.	15,647
II. Sangwy ...	14 1 00	20 9 00	28th Mar.	10,900
III. Tuljapur Ghat...	23 3 00	23 9 00	6th July	7,718
IV. Dharaseo ..	27 3 00	12 10 00	15th April	12,458
V. Wadgaon ...	29 5 00	20 9 00	12th Aug.	3,315

Taking all the camps, the highest attendance was in the month of April, when the number relieved on any one day rose to 33,646.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 3,74,536.

229. The taluka of Parendah is surrounded on all sides by British territory, and complaints were early received of the emigration of His Highness' subjects to Barsi taluka. These men were brought back and a camp was opened on the 13th March 1900, at Uplai, a village on the border. This road was constructed as a moorum road during the scarcity of 1306 Fasli (1897). It connects Parendah, the head-quarters of the taluka, with Barsi town, the terminus of the Barsi light railway. Its length in His Highness' territory is 13 miles.

The first camp was closed on the 9th September, the highest attendance on any day having been 9,254 on the 17th May. When the work of deepening the Parendah kunta was nearing completion and the numbers seeking relief began to increase, another road camp was opened at Parendah on the 18th May. This camp worked on towards Barmgaon, where the work is still in progress to afford relief to persons affected by the famine of 1901.

The highest attendance at this camp was reached on the 26th July when it was 3,752. Taking the two sections together, the highest attendance was 9,521 in May.

On this road, formation, metal and moorum work has been completed with the exception of 2 miles. On 4 miles, excess material, namely 5,323·46 cubic yards of metal and 181·109 cubic yards of moorum, has been collected which will be useful for annual maintenance in future.

The total expenditure under all heads to the end of Dai, or 3rd December, (the subsequent expenditure being charged to the famine of 1901) has been Rs. 1,12,200.

230. This road connects Mominabad, a Hyderabad contingent station in the Bir district, with Barsi town, of which 20 miles lie in the Yermalla Mominabad road. Naldurg district. People from the Bir district, and the talukas of Wasi, Kallam, &c., were found wandering into the adjoining British territory over this road, and a camp was opened at Yermalla, near the British frontier, on the 30th March to intercept these people and give them employment. The numbers on relief rose to 14,519 on the 7th May and two more camps, Kallam and Massa, were opened towards Mominabad, by transfer of coolies on the 17th and 30th May respectively. The attendance at the Massa camp was at its highest on the day after the camp was started, when it was 4,251 and at Kallam the highest attendance was reached on the 7th July, when the number rose to 5,475. The Kallam camp was closed on the 15th September by the coolies being transferred to Massa, which itself was closed on the 14th November, the Yermalla camp having also been closed a few days earlier *i.e.*, on the 5th. The highest attendance, taking all the camps, was 16,684 on any one day.

Nineteen miles of this road existed as a metalled road, but it was not in good condition. During the famine sufficient quantities of metal and moorum were collected and stacked at site, with the exception of 6 miles. A diversion of this road, about half a mile was opened near the Manjira river, which separates the Bir from the Naldurg district, but is left incomplete.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 1,61,419.

231. This road connects Latur with Ousa, the head-quarters of the taluka of that name, situated 12 miles south of Latur. Work on this Latur Ousa road. road was started to find employment for the coolies on the Latur Yedsi road, the work on which was completed. On the 24th June, 10,020 coolies were transferred to the Ousa road. A second camp was subsequently opened, on which the attendance rose to 5,742 persons. The camps were finally closed on the 1st and 11th October respectively.

Earthwork has been completed on 6 miles and moorum formation on the first two miles. Metal sufficient for 5 miles has been broken and stacked on the first mile, as rubble was not procurable throughout the road. Metal has also been collected for the 7th, 8th and 9th miles. The total expenditure has been Rs. 72,531.

232. This tank situated in Tuljapur, was originally started by Col. Meadows

Ramdarah tank

Taylor but was left in an incomplete state. Tuljapur is a town with an ancient temple which attracts thousands of votaries every year, and the place has always suffered from a scarcity of water, even in the best seasons. The restoration of this tank was undertaken at the instance of the local Revenue officers and the Inspecting Engineer. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to whom the Inspecting Engineer's report with plans and estimate, had been referred for opinion, wrote unfavourably of the project, chiefly because the expected out-turn was nothing approaching what is expected in the Telingana.

The work, which had been suspended in the meanwhile, was resumed and when the camp was closed the work had nearly reached completion.

The work was started on the 3rd February, but remained suspended from 22nd March to 18th April, when it was re-opened and finally closed on the 30th September. The highest attendance was reached on the 10th June, when it was 6,977.

The total expenditure was Rs. 69,639, which is slightly in excess of the estimate (68,714).

233. This is a small tank in Parendah which supplies drinking water to the population of the town. Silt clearing and deepening were

Parendah kunta.

undertaken in 1897, at a cost of Rs. 6,858, but as the water supply again failed during the famine, the work of deepening and widening the kunta was started on the 12th March. The number on relief rose to 2,963 on the 21st March. The work was completed on the 25th May when the coolies were transferred to the road work. The total expenditure was Rs. 5,085.

234. An abstract of the progress of work on the roads in this district,

Abstract of progress of roads.

together with sums expended and the sums required for completion, is given below.

Road.	Length in miles.	NUMBER OF MILES IN WHICH				Total famine expenditure.	Amount re-quired for completion.
		Earthwork has been completed	Moorum has been spread.	Metal has been collected	Metal has been rolled		
						Rs.	Rs.
Dharaseo Sholapur road ...	30	11	14	26	8	3,76,287	64,895
Latur Yedsi road ...	35	35	30	34	12	6,21,751	41,989
Parendah Barsi road ...	13	13	13	13	...	1,14,051	13,570
Yermalla Mominabad road ...	21	1	10	15	...	1,64,996	25,405
Latur Ousa road ...	12	6	2	8	...	73,262	29,107
Total ...	111	66	69	96	20	13,50,297	1,74,966

*Gulbargah district.*

235. There were two camps on the Hominabad road in the Mahagaon taluka of this district at which the highest attendance was 24,159 on the 23rd July, composed of 13,738 workers and 10,421 dependants.

To an average of 100 dependants there were 132 workers, to 100 children 144 adults, and to 100 working men 166 working women and children.

The total number of persons relieved was 2,678,150, and the cost per 1,000 persons was Halli Sicca Rs. 65.38 or British Rs. 52.28. This low rate of cost is accounted for by jawari having sold for a long time at 8 seers.

The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 1,75,099 as follows:—

	Rs.
Payments to workers (including holidays and rainy days) ...	1,12,610
Dependants ... ..	52,958
Temporary establishment ... ..	6,068
Doles to persons returning to their villages ..	1,223
Provision for sick and burial charges ... ..	393
Hutting . ... ..	115
Contingencies ... ..	2,200
Total ...	1,75,567
Deduct sums refunded .	468
Balance ...	1,75,099

It is estimated that the value of the work done at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 51,477, or 29.39 per cent of the cost, but taking only payments to workers and contractors, the percentage is 45.71.

The Hominabad road passes from Gulbargah to Hominabad and is 38 miles in length, of which 14 miles (from 8 to 21 miles) were undertaken during the famine and this was the only work in this district.

The first camp was opened on the 8th February and closed on the 18th September. The highest attendance was reached on the 18th July when it was 11,783. The other camp was opened on the 24th April and closed on the 24th September; the highest attendance (12,787) was returned on the 25th July.

Much traffic passes over this road. The first seven miles had already been constructed by the P. W. D. by ordinary contract. On miles 8 to 21 undertaken as a famine work, metal has been broken and stacked from 8 to 20 miles and inorum from 9 to 12 miles. Metal has been spread and rolled over half the width of the road from 8 to 12 miles. The cost for completion is estimated at Rs. 26,193.

The Inspecting Engineer reports that the high proportion of dependants to workers is due to false muster rolls; further that the coolies generally worked equal to, or less than, the minimum. The statement made that in the Kurikotah camp the people worked up to maximum is also explained by the Inspecting Engineer to be based on incorrect measurements. On the whole the work is unsatisfactory and the engineer in charge of the district does not appear to have taken sufficient interest in the work.

*Bidar district.*

236. In this district there were 6 relief camps. The highest daily attendance was on the 4th June, when it was 29,262, composed of 19,668 workers and 9,594 dependants.

Attendance and expenditure

There was an average of 205 workers to 100 dependants, of 147 adults to 100 children, and of 100 working men to every 147 working women and children. The total number of persons relieved was 3,815,527, and the cost per 1,000 persons was H.S. Rs. 78-2, or British Rs. 62-8. The total expenditure on the works was Rs. 2,98,089 as follows:—

	Rs.
Paid to workers ... ..	2,30,095
„ dependants ... ..	52,605
Permanent staff allowances ... ..	2,414
Temporary establishment ... ..	10,892
Cost of hutting .. ..	216
Miscellaneous and contingencies, &c. ... ..	3,687
Total	2,99,939
Deduct refunds ... ..	1,850
Balance ... ..	2,98,089

It is estimated that the value of the work done at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 2,14,814, or 72·06 per cent of the total expenditure.

In the Bidar district no contractors were employed for the supply of rubble stone, the work having been carried out by famine labour. Taking payments to workers alone, the cost of the work is Rs. 2,30,095, on which the value at ordinary P. W. rates works out to 93·35 per cent. An analysis of the work schedules shows that 53 per cent of the people worked above the maximum, but under the famine rules were paid only the maximum, 28 per cent worked less than the minimum being paid the minimum, and the remaining 25 per cent were paid actual earnings, at rates between minimum and maximum. There is a question in this district between the Inspecting Engineer and the Famine Engineer regarding measurements. The latter's explanation of the figures appears satisfactory, but the point can really only be settled by enquiry on the spot, and the correspondence is being sent to the P. W. D. for disposal.

237. The first work opened was the Udgir tank in the Udgir taluka on which work was started on the 21st February. The work consisted of filling the breach, raising the bund and revetment, and is now complete. The capacity of the tank has been increased by nearly two-thirds. This camp was closed on the 23rd April; the highest attendance was 3,696 on the 27th February. The total expenditure under all heads was Rs. 10,718, and the P. W. value of the work at ordinary rates is Rs. 8,517, or 79·4 per cent of the actual cost. Taking only payments to workers, the P. W. value is 101·89 per cent of the expenditure.

Udgir tank.

238. The total length of the road from Bidar to Rajura is 70 miles, of which only 30 miles from the Rajura end to a village called Mogha, five miles to the south-east of Udgir were undertaken as famine work. This road will form a valuable railway feeder if extended

Bidar Rajura road.

beyond Rajura to Nander. On the famine section of the road the following work has been done—Earthwork and formation completed for the whole length except a little over two miles near the Mogha and Rajura villages at the two extremes; moorum collected for the whole length sufficient for all purposes, except seven miles where enough moorum for binding metal could not be collected; moorum rolling has been done throughout; 989,634 cubic feet of metal have been broken and stacked at the road side, which is sufficient to metal 26 miles, with the usual layer of 6 inches deep and 12 feet wide. A good ghat road has been constructed 1½ miles long.

There were three camps on the section of this road from Rajura to Udgir, and one camp on the section between Udgir and Mogha village. On the former section, the first camp was opened on the 28th February and closed on the 14th October, the highest attendance of any day being recorded on the 9th April at 12,008. The second camp was opened on the 12th April and closed on the 17th October, the highest attendance of 7,091 having been reported on the 25th May. The third camp was started on the 24th May and closed on the 15th October and the highest attendance was returned on the 3rd June as 4,560. The camp on the second section was started at Udgir on the 20th April, and closed on the 13th October, the highest attendance of 7,376 having been reached on the 5th June.

The total expenditure, including all charges, on the first section was Rs. 2,12,131 and the value at ordinary rates Rs. 1,56,292, or 73·57 per cent of the actual cost. Similarly the expenditure on the second section was Rs. 52,498 and the P. W. value Rs. 28,774, or 54·81 per cent. Taking only payments to workers, the value of work done on the first section is 92·87 per cent of the actual expenditure and of work on the second section 74·95 per cent.

239. This was an entirely new road and when completed will connect Bidar with Indur and Nander. The total length is about 93 miles, of which 7 miles were done during the famine. The only works undertaken were ghat cutting for a distance of half a mile, easing the gradients to several minor *nalas*, and metal breaking. The metal collected (200,726 cubic feet) is sufficient for the length of 7 miles and though no formation has been done (the road having simply been marked out and side drains dug) the ghat cutting has made the road passable for traffic.

The camp was started on the 8th April and closed on the 8th September, the highest daily attendance having been 4,063 on the 11th June. The total expenditure, including all charges is Rs. 18,965, while the value at ordinary P. W. rates is Rs. 21,229, or 112 per cent.

240. An abstract of the progress of each road, with expenditure and amount required for completion is given below.

ROAD.	Length in miles.	NUMBER OF MILES IN WHICH				Total expenditure	Amount required for completion.
		Earthwork has been completed.	Moorum has been spread.	Metal has been stacked.	Rolling has been done.		
Rajura Bidar road ... ..	30	27	23	26	..	Rs. 2,64,929	Rs. 10,000
Bidar Nander road ... ..	7	1	...	7	...	18,965	8,000
Total ...	37	28	23	33	...	2,83,894	18,000

### J.—IRRIGATION WORKS IN THE TELINGANA.

241. Irrigation works in the Telingana, *i.e.*, in the partially affected area, were greatly accelerated in order to give employment to the people. They were all carried out under ordinary contracts, but in the majority of cases in which the tanks were being repaired under the revenue system, (according to which the contractors are paid out of the revenues derived from tank lands, receiving 5 per cent interest in the interval,) half cash grants were sanctioned by me, from the budget, to the extent of Rs. 4,55,338. The total value of work done amounted to Rs. 12,52,182.

242. The irrigation works carried out during the year were, to a great extent, selected by the Chief Engineer in communication with myself, the Subadar of Warangal and the First Talukdar of Nalgundah, the object in view being to have them as well distributed over the country as possible. A large number of persons received employment on these works who otherwise might have suffered from the scarcity.

243. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation has supplied me with the following memorandum on the subject.

“Early in December 1899 it was decided that measures were necessary in order to alleviate the distress likely to arise through the failure of the rains. As far as Telingana was concerned no distress had as yet shown itself, as although the wet crops had failed some dry crops had actually been obtained; still prices were rising, and it was evident that distress loomed ahead which if not dealt with might ripen into famine. In Telingana, it was determined to considerably expand the usual operations of the P. W. D. and, in places where it was found that this did not afford sufficient relief, this was to be supplemented by test works, and finally works started on the system set forth in the Bombay Famine code, if this became necessary.

“There were ready to put in hand some Rs. 65 lakhs of estimates for useful and remunerative work spread over the above districts; all this, it was intended, to put in hand in the usual course of events and commencing it at once was but anticipating matters. Work, up to date, had for the most part been undertaken under the “new scheme”; by this scheme a contractor takes up a work, executes it according to plan and estimate, and is paid with 5 per cent simple interest, out of the accruing revenue. It was feared that if works were carried out on this system in a year when, from the failure of rains, there had been little or no revenue under irrigation works, that contractors would be unprepared to take into employment the large body of people who it was hoped would find employment on these works. Again to give contractors payment in cash for all works done was to virtually set an example for the future execution of works on a system which, if irrigation works are to progress on the desired scale, would entail too large an immediate outlay to make it expedient for His Highness’ Government to adopt. It was, therefore, on the advice of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation decided to undertake all works on the “new scheme” with a half cash grant. The result of this measure has abundantly justified its adoption. In Sirpur Tandur, where the Irrigation branch had hitherto done no work and where there were no known resident contractors, it was considered advisable to start all works on cash payment.

“A programme of work was next drawn up for each district and laid before the Famine Commissioner for approval. Works were started in as many talukas as feasible in order to obviate the necessity for any of the distressed moving any further for work than necessary. The programme for the Nalgundah, Warangal and Elgandal districts, was considered in a committee consisting of the Famine Commissioner, the Subadar of the Warangal division, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the First Talukdar of Nalgundah. The programmes for the other three districts were prepared by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and laid before the Famine Commissioner for approval. At the outset, on account of the drawing branch in the Chief Engineer's office being undermanned, an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,200 was sanctioned for additional extra staff, principally consisting of estimators, in order to prepare every estimate, lying in the office, ready for laying before the Famine Commissioner.

“The districts were absolutely unprepared to undertake any work on the famine code system as there was no stock of tools in any one of them; an estimate amounting to Rs. 6,863-12-6 was sanctioned by the Famine Commissioner for procuring tools for the Elgandal district, as it was feared that the bad communications in this district and its peculiar conditions would possibly result in the distress being more felt there than elsewhere, and it was necessary at the outset to provide against eventualities. As matters turned out, four test works had to be opened in this district in July 1900, but they were stopped in September 1900.

“The estimates of these amounted to Rs. 22,019, and the expenditure to Rs. 5,304-5-1. The highest attendance of labourers on these works was 1,037. On the 5th July, a grant of Rs. 2,500 was given. A further grant of Rs. 5,000 was found necessary later, making altogether a total grant from the famine fund of Rs. 7,500. The Elgandal district is situated in a somewhat remote part of the Dominions; it is not served by any railroad and internal communications are bad. In the Karim Nagar, Siddipet and Sultanabad talukas preparations for a famine were not as forward as elsewhere; the people had lost many cattle during the drought; rains were a little late in setting in heavily and so all this resulted in the necessity of finally opening test works.

“The history of the progress of works started in Telingana during the year belongs to the administration report of the Irrigation branch of the P. W. D. and to which reference may be made, and it only remains here to make a few remarks on the success attained, together with suggestions for the future.

“Generally speaking, in Telingana, work was required only for the resident population. A few immigrants came from the Mahrattwara into the Indur district but they did not come for work, and the poorhouse that was opened at Indur was practically opened exclusively for the relief of famine stricken Mahrattas. Some Mahrattas marched down the Godavari into Elgandal with their cattle but they were, for the most part, well to do; considerable quantities flocked into Sirpur Tandur; the object of these people flocking into Sirpur Tandur was primarily to find food and water for their cattle but many also entertained a vague idea of finding a livelihood there themselves and the quantities which congregated in this outlying district constituted a grave difficulty for the P. W. D. They were all willing to work and there was plenty of work for them, but the local *baniyas* were not prepared to provide them with food at reasonable rates and this matter

of food eventually resulted in distress becoming a little acute, to the necessity of a poorhouse being opened, and to the dispersal of a lot of the labourers elsewhere. It seemed a mistake to allow famine stricken people to assemble in so remote a spot and the result certainly points to the desirability of preventing it in future. Without these immigrants all the resident agricultural population would have got through the year without assistance, as such crops as were reaped would have sufficed to stave off famine. The immigrants would have been very much more easily dealt with elsewhere; in fact, Sirpur Tandur was the worst possible place for them to flock to. The P. W. D. works hardly touched the people resident in forest tracts and it is suggested that the remarks made later on in this report relative to these people may receive such attention as they may appear to deserve.

“The Chief Engineer for Irrigation made tours through the Indur, Sirpur Tandur, Elgandal and Warangal districts between October 1889 and April 1900: starting on the 27th October 1899, he again reached head-quarters on 21st April 1900. The most outlying talukas of Elgandal and Warangal, such as Laksettipet, Mahadeopur and Chinnur of the former, and Paikal and Pakhal of the latter were visited. The Khamamet taluka of the Warangal district probably felt the failure of the rains less than any other in Telingana.

“The measures adopted were an undoubted success and point to the great utility of these methods in dealing with distress at the outset. Measures of this description, if adopted in time, by securing to all willing to work greater power of purchasing at a time of high prices, are in any case bound to do good and as a matter of fact do much more good than any one seems to suppose. In the case of the Telingana districts the utility of following this policy is very obvious as all the money spent goes towards the restoration of magnificent irrigation works which bring in large returns.

“It was decided that the masonry works should proceed simultaneously with the earthwork, in order that the safety of the earthwork might in each case be secured by the necessary masonry; as matters turned out the cattle became so starved and famine stricken from want of fodder towards the end of the season that it became a little difficult to get any to drag material to site, and thus much useful masonry that should have been done was left incomplete.”

#### K.—FAMINE ACCOUNTS AND EXPENDITURE.

241. The preparation of this report has been delayed owing to the difficulty of getting the last accounts settled in the districts and also to the time occupied in the Accountant General's office in compiling them. The accounts as now received are not quite complete, and in some respects the classification is obviously wrong, but I am obliged to be satisfied with them, as they are, for the purposes of this report. A final statement can be rendered hereafter when the accounts are finally closed and audited.

245. The responsibility of the famine accounts rests between the Talukdars of districts, and the Accountant General at head-quarters. At the time the Famine Commissioner was appointed, H. E. the Minister directed Mr. C. E. Crawley, Comptroller General, to frame instructions and rules for the famine accounts, and

Responsibility of famine accounts rests on Account department.

after ascertaining from myself the system on which it was proposed to carry out relief works, Mr. Crawley issued rules for account procedure, which are so simple and clear that there can be no excuse, except the incompetence of the account branches in the district and tehsil offices, for their not having been implicitly followed.

Account rules issued by  
Comptroller General.

246. These rules, which are reproduced in appendix II, clearly lay down the duty and procedure of each grade of officer connected with famine.

The relief work officer in charge of a camp was responsible for measurements and for the preparation of the bills for workers. The bills were then given to the tehsildar, or his cashier, who was on the spot, and the payments were made by the tehsildar, or his cashier. A simple form of bill was prescribed and a list of all such bills was to be sent monthly to the Famine engineer, whose duty it was to compare it with the work schedules, and then to sign and send it on to the Accountant General.

The tehsildar, having paid the bills presented by the engineering department, was to enter the accounts in his daily account and *send the bills with his accounts to the Talukdar.*

The Talukdar, in his capacity as treasury officer, was to collect together the bills for each relief work, and for each tehsil, and prepare a list in a prescribed form, *sending this list and the bills themselves to the Accountant General with the monthly cash abstracts.*

In addition to work-bills paid to *mukadams*, there were payments by tehsildars to dependants and any coolies on special works paid by daily wage. Such payments were to be made on the authority of the certificates signed by the camp officer to whom was entrusted the duty of keeping the muster roll. These certificates were to be retained by the tehsildar for inspection by the Talukdar or other famine officer, and from them there was to be compiled a schedule of payments to coolies and dependants. This schedule was to be submitted with the treasury accounts.

Sums for large purchases of tools were to be passed on bills countersigned by the Famine Commissioner, and payments were made by the Accountant General himself through the Bank of Bengal.

Petty local purchases were to be passed on the sanction of the Famine Commissioner and made payable at the local treasury.

247. It will be seen from the above that while the executive officers in charge of camps were responsible for the measuring of work, for the muster rolls and for the preparation of the bills, all payments were to be made through the civil officers who were alone responsible for the cash. As the tehsil establishments are already over-worked, I sanctioned extra clerks for them, allowed one or more cashiers for every camp, and particularly directed that the tehsildars as the responsible officers

Civil officers responsible for  
cash.

should be allowed to select their own cashiers. As a matter of fact, the old hands in the tehsil were generally employed as cashiers, the new men being kept for office work.

248. The duty of the Famine Commissioner in respect to finance was limited to seeing that each district was kept in funds, and he was enjoined to apply to the Accountant General every month, or oftener if necessary, for funds. In practice I applied to the Financial Secretary, but the point is that I had nothing to do with the finance, or the accounts of the famine, beyond seeing that funds were supplied.

Duty of Famine Commissioner in respect of finance.

Rule 29 distinctly laid down that the Accountant General will send to the Famine Commissioner every month a statement showing the amount spent in each district under each of the heads shown in para. 4, and a form was prescribed for this statement.

Anticipating delay in receiving the classified accounts from the Accountant General, I adopted a system for keeping myself informed of the weekly expenditure in each tehsil and district treasury. For my own purposes this system was of great use to me, and I could not have done without it, but still the register I kept of expenditure was not the authoritative one, and I looked to the Accountant General for the classified monthly statements, which, I may say, reached me in such a state of imperfectness and so late, that they were practically of no use during the famine period.

249. An impression has existed that large sums were drawn as advances for famine expenditure, but I believe there is a misunderstanding on this point, which may be attributed to the action of the Talukdar of Aurangabad. The Accountant General had complained of the delay in receiving accounts from the Aurangabad district, and on being called on for an explanation, the Talukdar wrote as follows to the Financial Secretary :—

Erroneous idea regarding large advances for famine expenditure.

“ No amount has been paid by this (Talukdar's) office without due receipts and vouchers. But there are three kinds of amounts :—First, there are those whose vouchers are submitted along with the bills, such as salary bills, &c.

“ Second are imprest accounts, which are advanced to relief officers in fixed sums as ordered by the Famine Commissioner, and as the account of expenditure is sent in from time to time sanctioned by the Famine Commissioner, the amount expended is recouped.

“ Third are amounts for relief works and poorhouses, &c., *which are also advances but not imprest advances*, as it is difficult for the work to get on unless the amount is given in advance. The usual way is, the Talukdar issues cheques to the tehsildars, who furnish cashiers with necessary amounts, and when the relief officers submit bills, the amounts of the bills are paid. The tehsildars ought to have sent such bills with the monthly statements to the Talukdars, but they have not done so in spite of constant reminders.”

It is the third point as above which has led to the misunderstanding on the subject.

Imprest advances were sanctioned by me for all camp officers and for others, such as the Superintending Engineer, district engineers, &c., who could not have carried on their work without some small funds on hand. I also sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for each tehsildar, so that his cashier might have funds on hand for paying workers, specially when camps were at a distance from the tehsil, and also to provide for holidays when the treasury was closed. But in many instances this latter order does not seem to have been taken advantage of.

The total of the imprest probably did not exceed twenty-five thousand rupees, which was recouped periodically by bills, and all such advances have been accounted for. Where the Talukdar errs is in saying that payments for relief works and poorhouses were also advances. I cannot speak positively with regard to all poorhouses. It is possible that the Talukdar of Aurangabad may have given some advances to the committees managing these institutions, but in other parts the account was the other way,—supplies for the poorhouses being bought on credit from the *anias* and paid for weekly, or at longer intervals. As regards relief camps nothing was paid to the officers in charge (beyond their imprest) without their first producing a bill showing the details, and of course the amount of this bill was not paid to the officer in charge, but was disbursed to the people by the tehsildar's cashier.

The mistake the Talukdar made was in treating his cheques to the tehsildars as advances instead of credits. The Accountant General might just as well say he advanced money to the Talukdars by giving them credits in accordance with the Famine Commissioner's requisitions. By these cheques the tehsildars were placed in funds with which to pay bills, but it is incorrect to suppose they paid out this money as advances.

In each instance a bill was taken in the form prescribed by Mr. Crawley. These bills should have been forwarded to the district treasury with the tehsildar's **daily** account, but they were not sent, and both at Jalna, Gangapur and Aurangabad I found piles of bills lying in the tehsil offices, which were the accounts, and the only accounts required from the camp officers. Because these were not sent in daily to the district offices, the Talukdar treated his credits on the tehsils as advances.

The Gangapur tehsildar brought to me towards the end of the season an enormous number of bills representing an expenditure of Rs. 4,42,429, and it was the same at Jalna and elsewhere. The whole of these bills have now reached the Accountant General's office, and it can be seen from them that the payments were made on the bills at the time and not as advances to be subsequently accounted for. Early in the month of March 1900 I saw that the accounts were falling into confusion and suggested that a special account officer should be deputed to each district. Some inspecting accountants were appointed, but they were not the type of men required.

If Mr. Crawley's rules had been followed in their entirety, and if the bills had been regularly forwarded to the account department, there would have been no hitch, but, ignoring the provision of these rules, the tehsildars in the Aurangabad district were called on to submit classified accounts, and this caused the delay.

250. The Accountant General has furnished district accounts up to 1st February 1901 (end of Isfandar); the central treasury accounts up to 2nd January 1901 (end of Bahman); and the *Sarf-i-khas* accounts up to 3rd December 1900 (end of Dai). These accounts show a total famine expenditure of Rs. 85,55,912, the details of which are—

			Rs.
Government expenditure	...	..	76,73,284
<i>Sarf-i-khas</i> do	...	..	8,82,628
Total...			85,55,912

The details of this sum, as rendered by the Accountant General, are as follows.

HEADS.					Government expenditure.	<i>Sarf-i-khas</i> expenditure.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
GENERAL SUPERVISION—							
Famine Commissioner's office	...	...			35,243		35,243
Accountant General's do.	..				2,601	..	2,601
Financial Secretary's do.	...	...			1,920	...	1,920
DISTRICT STAFF, &c.—							
Officers	..	...	...	...	1,00,990	450	1,01,440
Establishment	...	...	...		1,09,951	11,075	1,21,026
Travelling			...	...	31,553	17	31,570
Contingencies		...			1,920	214	5,043
Tents	..	...	...		18,179	...	18,179
Tools	...	..	...	...	2,89,785	1,363	2,91,148
Petty supplies			...	...	36,551		36,551
FAMINE RELIEF—							
Mukadams for workers		...	...	...	21,30,661	94,283	22,24,944
Coolies and dependants	...	...			35,37,881	5,51,081	40,88,962
Contractors for supply of grain	...	...			1,75,727	..	1,75,727
Hutting	..	...	...	...	52,791	...	52,791
Poorhouse sheds	..	..		...	35,747	...	35,747
Do. expenses	...	...	...	...	10,75,107	2,21,142	12,92,649
Village relief on <i>chalans</i>	...	...	...		3,461	.	3,461
Medicines	...	..	...	...	14,433	.	14,433
Survey of Khamgaon Jalna light railway	...				12,860	...	12,860
Total...					76,73,284	8,82,628	85,55,912

251. The total amount charged to the accounts is thus Rs. 85,55,912. But this sum is subject to reduction on account of refunds and book adjustments amounting in all to Rs. 7,55,571. as follows.

PARTICULARS.	Amount.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.
MUNICIPAL TREASURY—		
Refund of interest to Famine Commissioner ...	1,123	
Refund of overpayment by Accountant General on account of tools ...	9,278	10,401
DISTRICT TREASURIES—(refunds)		
Aurangabad . . . . .	25,552	
Bir ... . . . .	88,551	
Paibhani ... . . . .	56,351	
Nander ... . . . .	11,250	
Gulbargah ... . . . .	3,661	
Naldurg ... . . . .	1,48,802	
Indur . . . . .	1,353	
Bidar ... . . . .	15,636	
Simpur Tandur .. .. .	200	
Nalgundah . . . . .	1,851	3,21,637
SARJEKHAS.		
Refunds for talukas, Naldurg district ...	3,40,037	
„ in Patoda taluka, Bir district	18,827	3,58,864
Total...		7,55,571

According to returns compiled in my own office from the district reports, the amount refunded in camps, *i.e.*, the amount drawn on bills, but not paid and consequently refunded, is Rs. 74,722. The other refund items are not specially detailed; many of them may have been book adjustments of advances and double entries. At any rate, whatever they are, the Accountant General treats them as refunds, and it is therefore proper to deduct them from the gross expenditure charged to famine.

Deducting the above sum the net expenditure on famine, according to the Accountant General's figures, is Rs. 78,00,341.

252. In order, however, to arrive at an accurate estimate of the expenditure, it is necessary to add a sum of Rs. 90,570 for bills pending payment in the districts. These bills should have been paid long ago, and I hope most of them have been paid by this time; but they

have not yet been brought to account in the audit office. Adding this sum, the expenditure comes to H.S. Rs. 78,90,911, or British Rs. 63,12,729, which represents as nearly as I can give it, and subject to any modifications that may be made hereafter by the Accountant General, the total cost\* of the famine of 1900.

253. Taking the total number relieved during the famine at 81,160,816 the above expenditure represents an average cost, including all charges, of H.S. Rs. 93-12-2, or British Rs. 75 per 1,000 per day. The comparative smallness of this charge is owing mainly to the fact that the bulk of the people did not earn more than minimum wages. So much was this the case that in Mr. Croley's camp, when the minimum wage was stopped, the people earned an average of only 71 per cent of the minimum wage. Another reason for the comparatively small charge per 1,000 units, is the strict economy I exercised on all miscellaneous and extraordinary expenditure.

254. There is evidently confusion in the Accountant General's figures in the heads "payments to *mukadams* for relief workers" and "payments to coolies and dependants" which are shown as Rs. 22,24,946 and Rs. 40,88,965 respectively. Payments to *mukadams* are payments to workers, but payments to coolies and dependants must also largely mean payments to workers. The more correct distribution is found in the engineers' reports, which show Rs. 40,65,563 paid to *mukadams* for workers, and Rs. 13,19,177 paid to dependants.

The item of Rs. 1,75,727 paid to contractors for supply of grain, is on account of grain stored in the rainy months in distant camps, where supplies were not available. The amount should really have been adjusted as payment to workers and dependants, or charges incurred in poorhouses, as the case might have been.

The expenditure in the Famine Commissioner's office includes the cost of printed forms, &c., for all camps and districts.

255. The cost of tools is a large item, *viz.*, Rs. 2,91,148. But this sum includes Rs. 25,508 for perishable articles such as baskets, and the actual cost of tools purchased was H.S. Rs. 2,65,640. There was such a demand for tools from all famine districts in India that it was most difficult to secure the necessary quantity in time. It transpired also that the Public Works department is so irregular in making payments, that Bombay firms will not supply anything without first receiving the cash. Messrs. William Watson & Co. of Bombay were therefore appointed agents for the purchase of tools. Orders were sent to them by the Superintending Engineer of Aurangabad, and the Inspecting Engineer, Naldurg, according to requirements, and in an emergency by myself, and considering the difficulty in procuring tools at the time, the orders were executed with promptitude. Small purchases were also made locally. Altogether the purchases amounted to 257,872 articles, including 47,000 pickaxes, 52,000 powrahs and 146,000 hammers.

\* The figures first given to me by the Accountant General worked out to Rs. 80,86,534 but on a further reference to that officer, they have been altered to those now given. At the same time the Accountant General has written to say that the accounts are not yet completely audited, and some detailed bills have still to be received. My own figures make the expenditure about 81 lakhs, but I am bound to take the Accountant General's figures as the most accurate.

The following statement shows in detail the purchases of tools and plant under each head and from each firm.

FROM WHOM PURCHASED.	NUMBER OF TOOLS										Cost.		
	Picks.	Powrubs.	Sutries.	(Towbars.	Hammers.	Sumbas.	Axes.	Gamelas.	Jumpers.	Rollers.	Total.	British currency.	R., Rs., H. S. R.,
Messrs. William Watson & Co., Bombay ...	10,556	43,048	2,680	1,400	131,500	150	25	2,500	1,500	...	231,359	1,85,666	46,116 2,32,082
Messrs. Hajee Rahmatulla & Co., Hyderabad ...	3,070	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,070	5,004	1,251 6,255
Messrs. Massey & Co, Madras .	...	360	...	...	900	...	...	...	...	...	1,260	980	245 1,225
Janu Hussain, Secunderabad...	528	1,812	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,340	2,406	601 3,007
Cheekoti Veeranna, do. ...	...	1,000	637	350	8,603	...	...	...	...	...	10,640	...	... 11,153
Messrs. Richardson and Crud- das, Bombay ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	2,902	726 3,628
Petty purchases by camp officers .. ...	2,825	283	202	68	2,854	30	200	1,736	...	...	8,198	...	... 8,290
Total ...	46,979	52,563	3,569	1,818	146,857	180	225	4,236	1,500	5	257,852	1,96,958	49,239 2,65,640

256. My estimate for the cost of hutting was Rs. 1,20,000. The actual expenditure has been Rs. 52,791 in camps and Rs. 35,747 in poorhouses, giving a total of Rs. 88,538.

Hutting

The saving under this head is largely due to the officers in some camps having been able to utilise branches and leaves for huts, which cost almost nothing, and really made better huts than the bamboo mats of the standard design.

257. The item of Rs. 3,464 for village relief is misleading. It was intended to show separately the cost of maintaining persons in their villages for 15 days after they left the camps on *chalans*, but the accounts have not been kept separate except in the instance of the small sum now referred to. The bulk of this expenditure has evidently been included under another head.

Village relief.

258. The item of Rs 12,860 for the survey of the Khamgaon Jalna light railway was paid to the Resident as His Highness' share of the cost of this survey.

Khamgaon Railway survey charges

259. The expenditure on famine has been a heavy drain on the finances of the State, but looking at the number of persons supported, it cannot be held that the expenditure has been excessive.

Famine expenditure not excessive.

On the contrary, we are more likely to be open to the criticism of not having spent sufficient. It may be well to place on record here that at the very outset, when my first proposals for relief were submitted, a Committee was held in the Minister's palace during my absence in camp, to discuss them, and it was resolved by this Committee that my proposals for the famine districts were approved, but those for the partially affected districts, for which I had proposed an expansion of ordinary works, should be modified by requiring all works to be carried out on the full relief work system under the Famine Code. Had this proposal been adopted, the expenditure would have been very greatly increased. On my return from camp, I prevailed on H. E. the Minister to amend the programme on the point referred to, and, as a matter of fact, the Committee's proceedings were never embodied in a Government order.

The success of my policy for the Telingana districts has been noticed by the Chief Engineer for irrigation, as the following, taken from his inspection report on the Nalgundah district, will show:—

“As will be noticed, the vast majority of the works executed during the year in the Nalgundah district were started in pursuance of the policy inaugurated by Mr. A. J. Dunlop, the Famine Commissioner, to ensure the relief of any distress that might exist consequent on the failure of the rains in 1899; the result as can be judged by this report, has been to put many of the irrigation works in the district on an entirely new footing and so provide the district with vastly superior facilities for storing water for irrigation purposes. The direct effect on the revenue is bound to be large, and from such enquiries as I have been able to make, this policy has been perfectly successful in its prime object which was to relieve distress. I cannot but think that at the outset of a distress, the policy of expanding the usual operations of the Public Works depart-

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“ment is not only sure to check distress but possibly relieve it entirely, and in any  
“case, when applied to irrigation works, which repay the outlay so readily in a few  
“years, as do most of those we undertake, it is a policy the pursuance of which  
“has many obvious advantages.”

I must say, however, that if I had to do the same thing over again, I would insist on having double the number of works that we had. I had hoped that the Manjira irrigation project, (construction of an anicut and channel, 28 miles in length,) would have given employment to thousands of persons, but there were delays in getting it fairly started and the highest daily attendance never exceeded 616.

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# CHAPTER IX.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

260. From the beginning of the famine it was understood that the relief operations were to be carried on according to the general principles accepted in British India. In October 1899, I submitted to His Highness' Government a programme on this basis, which was subsequently supported by the Resident, Sir Trevor Chichele Plowden, who visited a part of the famine districts in November. In writing to the Resident on the 18th December 1899, in connection with my proposals, H. E. the Minister said—

Lines of famine administration.

"I convened a Committee to consider the proposals contained in Mr. Dunlop's Famine Note I, and the matter was discussed in my presence. I enclose a printed copy of the Committee's proceedings from which you will see that all the main proposals made by Mr. Dunlop were approved of. In one important point the majority of the Committee differed from Mr. Dunlop, viz., in the method of carrying out works in the Telingana districts, it being decided that these should be by piece work as famine relief, and not by contract. But since Mr. Dunlop returned from Aurangabad, (he was not at head-quarters when the Committee sat) I have heard his views in detail and have decided that his recommendations should be given effect to in view of the circumstances of the people in each locality, whether the works should be carried out as "ordinary" or "relief" works. With regard to the other points in your letter under reply, on the subject of famine management, I may say I have adopted the policy advocated by you. Mr. Dunlop, as Famine Commissioner, is given a free hand to carry on the relief operations on the lines laid down by himself. \* \* \* \* The foregoing will, I trust, show you that His Highness' Government have taken suitable measures to meet the emergency and I am prepared to do whatever more may be necessary in this direction."

261. In addition to the foregoing, I had before me, as my charter for relief operations, a public speech made by His Highness at Gulbargah on his return from Calcutta, in which His Highness was graciously pleased to say as follows:—

His Highness the Nizam's speech at Gulbargah.

"My dear subjects and loyal officers,

"I have regretted to see the signs of less rain in this year, here and there on my way and that poor ryots will have to suffer from the dearness of grain. But I assure you that I and my Government are not unconscious of the same, and before I left Hyderabad I had already given permission to start irrigation works everywhere, so that employment might be provided for poor ryots, and the Government also benefitted. I have also sanctioned proposals for constructing roads, &c., in some places, and as far as possible, increases are also being given to persons drawing low salaries as a kind of help. Permission, as far as it could be done, has been given to cultivate in reserved forests and in my own reserves. And for the general supervision of all such works, an experienced officer like Mr. Dunlop has been appointed. If God wishes, on reaching Hyderabad, I will continue to attend to this particular affair.

"However, I strongly hope that nothing will be spared, either by me or by officers in keeping away the distress of scarcity and securing means of general comfort, so far as can be done by a human being. We will continue our efforts, and as for the success, will only look for the Mercy of God and the assistance of our Salata. I am

“perfectly certain that our efforts will never prove to be in vain, since in this, your holy city, there is the tomb of such a great Saint, whose influence as in life is believed in by the world at large, and whose miraculous aid is looked for by every one. Hazrath Khaja Bundah Nawaz (on whom be peace) will never refuse to fulfill the heartfelt desires of his followers, and get their prayers granted by God.”

262. Throughout the famine and especially during the most trying period, I kept this speech of His Highness before my mind as indicating the extent to which I was required and expected to afford relief to the famine-stricken, and the operations described in this report should be judged and criticised according to the standard set forth by His Highness, as well as by the standard adopted in British India.

It has sometimes been said, since the famine was over, that a Native State situated as Hyderabad is, cannot afford to give famine relief on the lines recently followed. The experience of the past year can be utilised for effecting improvements, and the recommendations of the Famine Commission now sitting will be certain to be a useful guide, but the principle of affording relief to all who are in need is not likely to be modified, and geographically situated as Hyderabad is, the State is bound to follow the general lead and to assimilate its measures to those adopted in adjoining territory.

263. When the time comes to make a comparison between the famine expenditure in Hyderabad and the adjoining provinces it will, I think, be found that Hyderabad is materially cheaper per head relieved than any other place. It may be thought that this indicates an insufficiency in the arrangements and to some extent this may be true in reference to certain parts of the country, but there are other reasons for the difference in the cost. For instance in the Sholapur district of the Bombay Presidency, in the beginning at least of the famine, the working men were being paid 2 annas and the women  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas per day irrespective of the work done, while in my camps across the border, we were paying the minimum wage (except when more was earned) calculated at 12 chattaks for an adult, which at that time represented one anna three pies per adult in British currency. Later in the season, in the Ahmed Nagar district a camp was started on the Karmalla road, in which, as an attraction, the workers were given maximum wages irrespective of work done. I confirmed this by a reference to the Collector who wrote that the work had been started on these terms by the engineer-in-charge, but that subsequently the matter had been rectified. According to the rumours in the relief camps in Aurangabad, the wages in Berar were at the outset higher than what I allowed to be paid. In the middle of the season, the penal wage of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  chattaks was abolished in Berar and it was suggested I should follow the same course, but I only did so in the camps adjoining the Berar frontier. During the period of highest attendance, my minimum wage (which was mostly the scale paid to the people) was 2½ chattaks less than the minimum wage paid in Berar. The pay of my establishments was also probably on a lower scale. So that on the whole it will not be surprising to find that the cost per head is less. I have made these remarks in anticipation of the expenditure being found less. At the present time, I am not aware of what the expenditure has been in other provinces.

264. If I had to commence the relief operations over again, I would abolish the minimum wage altogether, retaining the maximum and feeding all dependants in kitchens. Where the subordinates were incompetent or too few in number, I would give grain doles to dependants instead of cooked food. There is nothing so good as a well managed kitchen for dependants, but unless good management can be assured it is better not to attempt to cook food. The minimum wage has in my opinion a most demoralising effect on the workers. I would entirely abolish it from our camps, at the same time taking efficient steps to weed out the sick and emaciated not able to work. In such cases the minimum wage—if not a hospital diet—should be given, and light work may or may not be taken from them as desired. In Mr. Croley's large camp on the Hingoli railway the relief officer, Moulvi Syed Husain reports that most of the arrivals at one time were in so emaciated a condition that they had to be kept as dependants on a minimum wage until they became stronger. The minimum wage, based on an equivalent of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  chattaks is too little for a working man, but still thousands and thousands of persons in receipt of it remained in good condition which would indicate that they had some small means of their own.

Village relief is in theory the best of all forms of relief, but I cannot advocate it for Hyderabad because of the enormous difficulties of carrying it out. More might however be done by giving advances to the people. There are many respectable persons in villages who might be tiled over the period of distress by small loans without interest, which should be recovered in better years. It would certainly be possible to do this in the case of field-holders and some artisans, and it would probably be found the most economical measure in the end. But if relief is to be given on a large scale, the bulk of the people—the workers and their dependants in relief camps and the infirm and sick in poorhouses—must be brought to large centres where they can be controlled, or rather where the subordinates in charge of them can be controlled. No camp should contain more than 5,000 persons and no poorhouse more than 2,000. Owing to a paucity of officers many of the camps in the past season were much too large and this unfavourably affected the out-turn of work.

265. Jagirdars should be compelled to maintain their own tenants. I have not been able to secure complete returns showing the total number of jagir people relieved, but in the case of the Paigah talukas belonging to Nawab Sir Khurshed Jah Bahadur, K.C.I.E., the total number of workers, including men, women and children, and counting each day's attendance, was 1,333,937, while the dependants were 2,077. The total expenditure on these people is estimated at Rs. 1,55,018, about half of which they may approximately be reckoned to have earned by work.

It was impossible to refuse relief to jagir people but the question of the responsibility of Jagirdars to look after their own people might very well be considered.

266. It is not possible in this report to notice the services of all the officers engaged in famines who distinguished themselves by good service, or on the other hand made themselves conspicuous by their bad work, and I propose doing this in a separate memorandum for the in-

formation of H.E. the Minister and the heads of departments concerned. I will only record here the names of the officers who held responsible positions in the famine.

Nawab Bashir Nawaz Jung Bahadur was the Subadar of Aurangabad division throughout the above period. It is impossible to mention the name of this officer without saying how much assistance, quietly rendered, I received from him during the whole famine. The distress was so severe, and the remedial measures had to be applied so rapidly, that it was not possible for me to issue all my instructions through the Subadar. I was obliged to address the Talukdars and Engineers direct on all urgent subjects. But in many ways the Subadar was able to render valuable assistance and our relations throughout were most cordial, as they have been for many years past. The Subadar did much to organise charitable relief, and it was owing to his exertions that so much was collected for the famine by voluntary subscriptions in the Aurangabad division. His remarks on camps inspected were always useful. My circular regarding the proper and respectful treatment of dead bodies was based on suggestions made by the Subadar, who on his inspection of a camp found that the subordinates were careless in this respect. In many other ways also, the long experience and the patient sympathy of Nawab Bashir Nawaz Jung with the suffering classes, have led to the adoption of useful measures.

The other officers in charge of districts, were the following :—

Mr. A. E. Kindersley	Superintending Engineer, Aurangabad division.
Moulvi Safdar Hussain	Inspecting Engineer. Naldurg, Bidar and Gulbargah districts.
Mirza Mahomed Ali Khan	First Talukdar Aurangabad.
Mr. Sohrabji Jamshedji	Do. Bir.
Moulvi Gulam Ahmed Khan	Officiating do. Parbhani.
Moulvi Ahmed Hussain	First Talukdar Nander.
„ Ameer Hassan	Do. Naldurg (afterwards promoted Subadar Gulbargah.)
Moulvi Gulam Ahmed	Officiating 1st Talukdar, Naldurg.
Moulvi Mahomed Hyder	First Talukdar, Gulbargah.
„ Syed Mahomed Bilgrami	Do. Bidar.

*District Engineers.*

Mr. S. M. Cornelius	... Aurangabad district.
„ C. D. O'Leary	.. Bir district.
„ F. G. Croley	Hingoli railway, Parbhani district.
„ J. M. G. Jones	... Do.
„ J. McDermott	... Parbhani district.
„ F. Gregory.	.. Bir Jalna road.
„ Atta Hussain.	... Bidar district.
„ Rangiah Naidu	... Nander district.
„ Zainulabedin	... Naldurg district.
„ Kothandaram	... Gulbargah district.

*Inspecting relief officers.*

Captain H. K. Dalryell, I.S.C.	.	Parbhani district.
Moulvi Syed Hussain.	...	Hingoli railway.
„ Shamsuddin Ahmed.	.	Aurangabad (until he fell ill.
„ Habibuddin.	...	Aurangabad.
„ Nur Mahomed.	...	Parbhani.
Pandit Rajaram.	...	Bur.
Moulvi Salumat Ali.	...	Naldurg.
„ Abdul Gaffarkhan.	.	Do.
Mr. F. Fano.		Do.

In my own office, my assistant has been Mr. R. Vasudeva Rau, B.A., who, as before, has worked his hardest and best. I was very nearly losing him, as during the famine he had an attack of typhoid fever, brought on probably by over-work, but he recovered and after short leave of a month, was able to resume his duties, and has assisted me very much in preparing the figures for this report.

HYDERABAD, DECCAN,  
27th February 1901.

A. J. DUNLOP,  
Famine Commissioner,  
His Highness the Nizam's Government.

THE END.



